

**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.

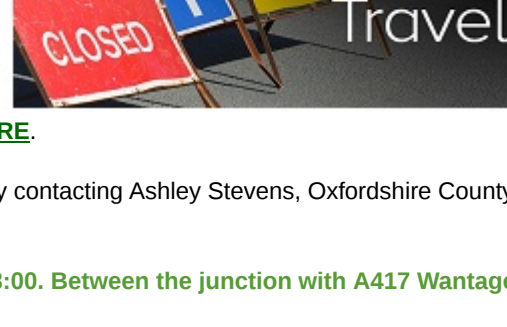
Submission date for articles for the next issue is 25 January

**In this issue:** Road closures; GGN production emergency; New booking system at waste recycling centres; Big Garden Birdwatch; Downs School admissions policy changes; February concert; Another Cholsey journey; Boathouse Dental Surgery is moving; Learn about Police volunteer roles – and our latest update of current planning applications.

**Two Road Closures**

**1. Battle Road, Goring, 2-5 February 2026, 09:30 to 15:30 daily**

Access will be maintained for emergency service vehicles and for those frontages within the closure area, subject to the progress of the works and liaison with the works supervisor. For a copy of the drawing showing the extent of the closure and also the alternative routes for traffic: [CLICK HERE](#).



Further information regarding the works may be obtained by contacting Ashley Stevens, Oxfordshire County Council on 0345 310 11 11.

**2. Rectory Road, Streatley, 20 January 2026, 08:00 to 18:00. Between the junction with A417 Wantage Road and the junction with Streatley Footpath 7.**

There is no alternative route for vehicles affected by the order, therefore access for residents and business and blue light access will be maintained.

Contractor: Barr Engineering Services, 0808108 0104.

[CLICK HERE](#) for link to one.network showing route affected.

**Save our local magazine**

**A production emergency at Goring Gap News**

Goring Gap News has been looking for volunteers to help produce the magazine for some time and last month it was hit by the perfect storm – all three experienced production volunteers had health issues.



Here's what we ask for:

- You like GGN and want to see it succeed.
- You are reasonably comfortable on a PC and keen to learn.
- You are potentially available and willing to commit one Friday and Monday a month.

If you may be able to help GGN keep the presses rolling please contact Gill the editor:

[goringgapnews@gmail.com](mailto:goringgapnews@gmail.com) or text/call 07979 686288.

**You now need to book an appointment in advance to visit any of Oxfordshire's household waste recycling centres**

You can find all the details on the new booking system by clicking [HERE](#). The nearest facility for the disposal of all unwanted material for most Goring and other South Oxfordshire residents is Oakley Wood, Crowmarsh.



You can book online or by ringing Oxfordshire Customer Services on the general 01865 519800 number where you will be put through to the appropriate department.

NB: You must take a form of written proof of your Oxfordshire address with you, eg, your driving licence or a recent council tax or utility bill.

**Big 2026 RSPB Garden Birdwatch**

Help is needed to monitor our declining bird populations



The RSPB's Big Garden Birdwatch is the largest citizen science wildlife survey in the UK. You are invited to spend one hour between 23-25 January counting all birds you see.

Across the UK, over 590,000 people took part in Big Garden Birdwatch 2025, counting 9.1 million birds! Counts are down by 60% compared to the first Birdwatch in 1979. Song Thrushes are down 83%. In fact, we've lost 38 million birds in the UK over the last 60 years. Our Birdwatch results help monitor how our birds are faring in the face of nature and climate change.

You don't need a garden to take part, just an hour of your time. You do need to sign up online though to take part, so click [HERE](#) to enter your details. Then scroll down for the information on exactly what to do.

ALSO, there is a Big Schools Birdwatch 2026 – Is the school you may be associated with signed up yet? Children can start counting birds in their school grounds any time up to 13 February. Click [HERE](#) for full details.

**Proposed change to admissions policy at the Downs School**



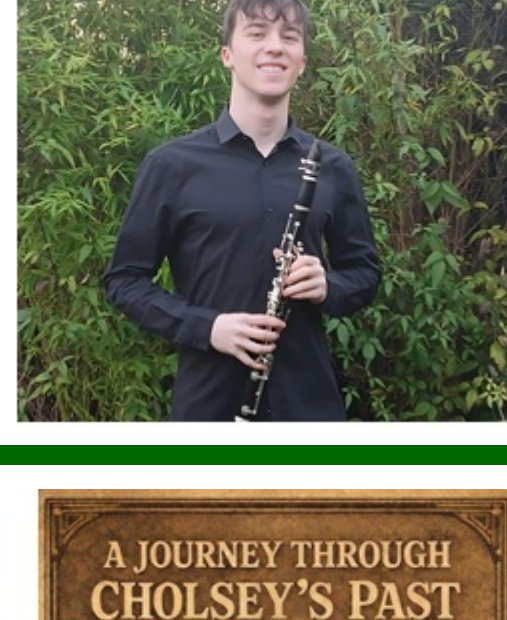
This is currently at consultation stage. The Downs proposal would give higher priority for admission to children attending primary schools within the same Academy Trust as The Downs, even where those children live outside the school's defined catchment area. As a result, children who live within the local catchment – including those attending Streatley Primary School – would be deprioritised solely because their primary school is not part of the Summit Education Trust Academy.

For more information, please [CLICK HERE](#) to see the letter written by Debi Beaumont (Vice Chair, Streatley Primary School Governing Board) to Laura Coyle (West Berkshire councillor for Streatley) and Colin Smith (Chair of Streatley Parish Council).

[CLICK HERE](#) for a link to the consultation document.

**Clarinet and Piano Recital by Elisha Canolle-Forkin and Olivia Canolle**

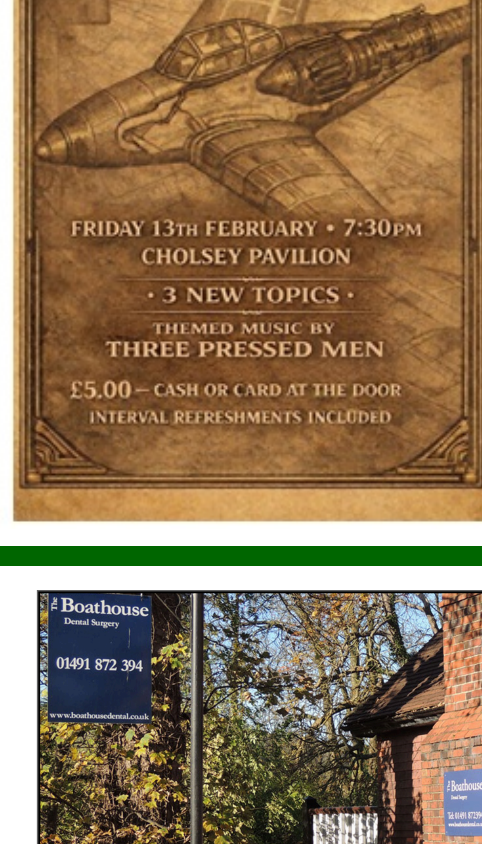
3pm Sunday 8 February at St Thomas' Church, Goring-on-Thames



Olivia Canolle and her son, Elisha, will be playing a delightful selection of French music for clarinet and piano. Olivia is a highly experienced pianist and piano teacher, and Elisha is in his final year at school. A highly accomplished player, Elisha was a finalist in the Berkshire Maestros Young Musicians of the Year 2024 and is now working towards his performance diploma on the clarinet. The recital is free with a retiring collection towards church expenses at St Thomas'.

**Another journey through Cholsey's past**

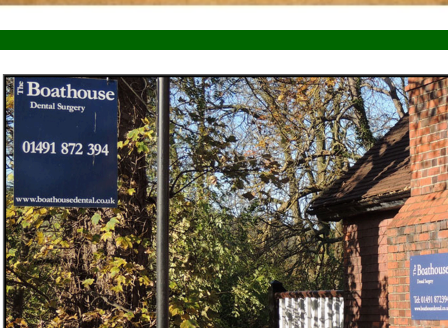
On Friday 13 February, at The Cholsey Pavilion, The Cholsey Archive will present an evening of three illustrated talks on village history, with musical interludes by versatile folk musicians Three Pressed Men.



Admission will be just £5.00 (cash or card at the door) and will include light interval refreshments. Doors open at 7.00 pm for 7.30 start.

The Archive's first event, in October 2025, was filled to capacity; although seats will not be reserved as such (apart from special needs), please email [archive@cholsey.com](mailto:archive@cholsey.com) or phone 01491 652295 to help us plan an enjoyable evening for all.

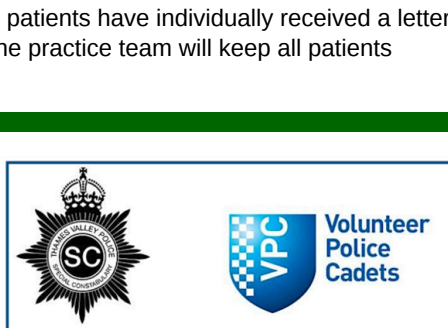
**Goring's Boathouse Dental Surgery is relocating**



Dr Atul Kothari and the Boathouse team are pleased to announce that the practice will be relocating to modern purpose-designed and more spacious premises in the centre of Goring High Street before the end of the year, probably in the summer.

For now, everything in the practice will carry on as normal and all patients have individually received a letter notifying them about the move prior to this statement in Genie. The practice team will keep all patients updated as more details of the transition are confirmed.

**Opportunity to learn about Volunteering roles in the Thames Valley Police**

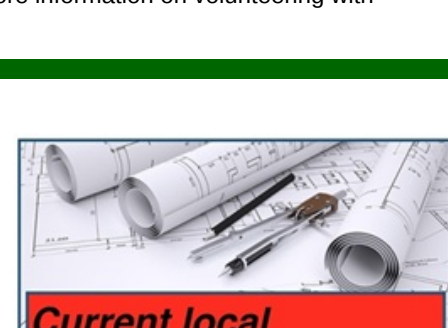


A 'Be the Difference' Volunteering Event is being held on Sunday 18 January (11am-2pm) at the Thames Valley Police HQ South in Kidlington.

Learn about all the volunteering opportunities available, meet some established volunteers and discover how you can support and protect our local communities. Register your place [HERE](#).

If you can't attend on the day, TVP will host another event at their training centre in Sulhamstead on Saturday 7 March. Alternatively, you can visit [TVP Careers](#) for more information on volunteering with Thames Valley Police.

**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 their 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 consultations 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:** 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](#)

**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 annexe (Kays Barn) and part of existing outbuilding. Erection of replacement two-storey building with single storey front extension to provide annexe accommodation and ancillary accommodation, and two detached sheds).  
**Reference Number:** [P25/S3828/DIS](#)  
**Consultation Deadline:** [7 February 2026](#)

**GORING**

**Location:** Mulberry Croft, Limetree Road, Goring RG8 9EY  
**Proposal:** Erection of carport  
**Reference Number:** [P25/S3893/HH](#)  
**Consultation Deadline:** [17 January 2026](#)

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**Location:** Hawthornden House Elmhurst Walk RG8 9DE  
**Proposal:** Install solar panels on existing roof. Convert existing loft space into habitable room. Reconfigure first floor including replacing doors and windows in dining room with period-style French windows.  
**Reference Number:** [P25/S3934/HH](#)  
**Consultation Deadline:** [22 January 2026](#)

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**Location:** 53 Wallingford Road Goring RG8 0HL  
**Proposal:** Single storey rear extension, changes to the rear terrace, internal alterations and rendering of the whole property.  
**Reference Number:** [P25/S3978/HH](#)  
**Consultation Deadline:** [22 January 2026](#)

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**Location:** Sheepcot Sports Pavilion Gatehampton Road Goring RG8 0EB  
**Proposal:** Upgrade of the existing sports pavilion.  
**Reference Number:** [P25/S4010/FUL](#)  
**Consultation Deadline:** [29 January 2026](#)

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**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](#)

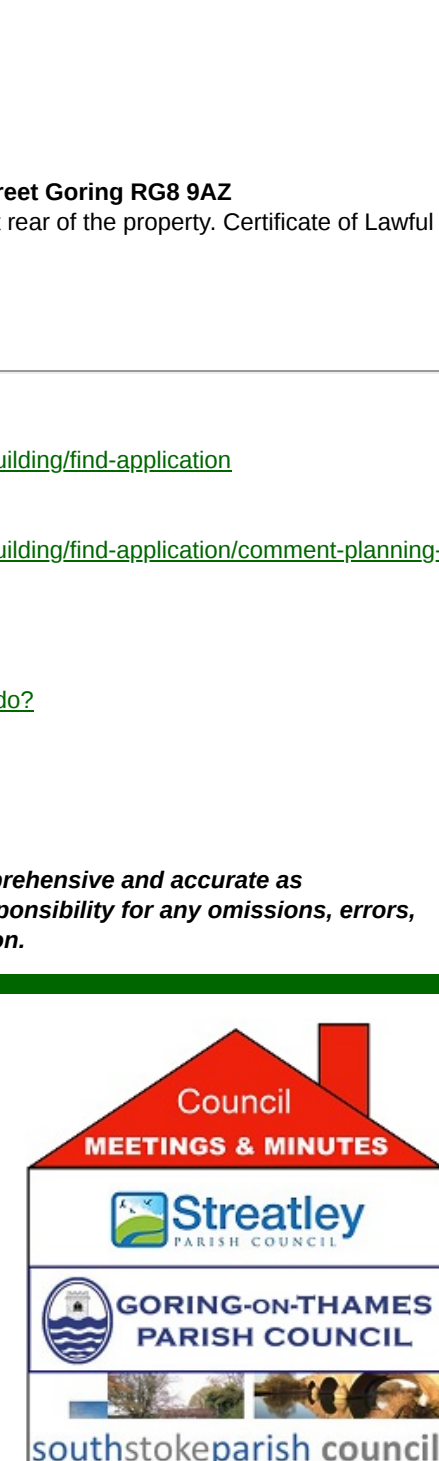
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**Location:** 1 Woden Cottages High Street Goring RG8 9AZ  
**Proposal:** Proposed outhouse/studio at rear of the property. Certificate of Lawful Development  
**Reference Number:** [P26/S0005/LDP](#)  
**Target Decision Date:** [2 March 2026](#)

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**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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