

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 June

In this issue: Road closures; June What's On; Festival fringe music; Tennis Club appeal; Parish Council latest; Repair Café; Walled Gardens of Wallingford; Bloom appeal; Police warning; Councillor report

Road Closure – Wantage Road, Streatley A417

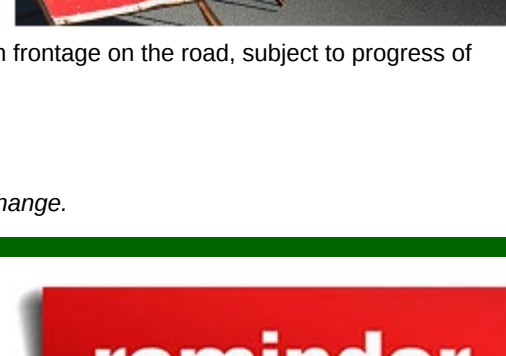
04.00 on Friday 12 June to 18.00 on Tuesday 16 June – all the time

The road will be closed from the county boundary (just north of Streatley) to Blewbury.

Limited access for emergency vehicles and dwellings with frontage on the road, subject to progress of works.

You can see a map of the closure [HERE](#).

Information correct at time of publication, but subject to change.



Road Closure reminder – Goring: Reading Road B4526

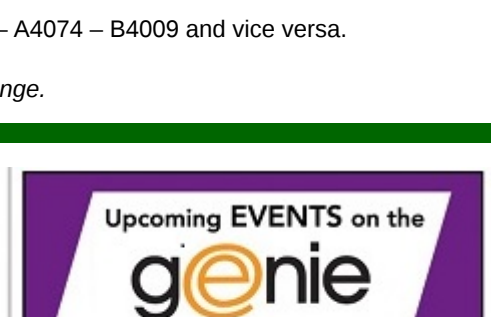
1-3 June. All the time. This is to enable work by Thames Water

Coming from Goring, the closure will be just after the entrance to Whitehills Green, continuing past Fairfield Road and up round the next corner to just before the entrance to the Burial Ground. See map [HERE](#).

ACCESS: Limited access will be maintained for emergency service vehicles and for frontages within the closed section of road, subject to the progress of the works. Access will be maintained for cyclists and pedestrians.

SUGGESTED ALTERNATIVE ROUTE: via B4526 – B471 – A4074 – B4009 and vice versa.

Information correct at time of publication but subject to change.

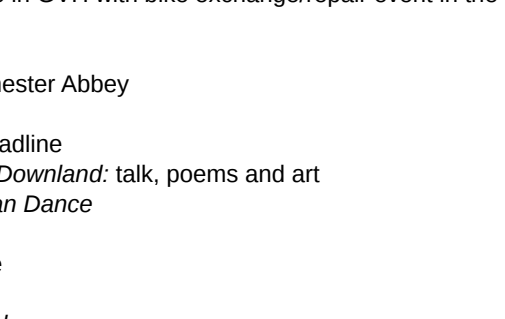


What's On – for the month of June 2026

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:

12-21 June	The GAP Festival: https://www.thegapfestival.org/ A huge range of events available – book now
Wed 3 June	- 7.30pm Goring Village Green Fingers: <i>Planting a small garden</i> by Timothy Walker
Thurs 4 June	- 8-11.30am Mobile post office outside Westholme Stores. Weekly. Also Tuesdays 1.30-4pm - 6.30-8pm Streatley Parish Assembly
Friday 5 June	- 10am-5pm Withymead is open on Fridays and Sundays in August. Citizen Science on 7 June, cream teas on 28 th
Sat 6 June	- 10am-12.30pm Goring Repair Café in GVH with bike exchange/repair event in the Rectory Garden (10am-3pm)
Sun 7 June	- 7.30pm Langtree Sinfonia at Dorchester Abbey
Wed 10 June	- 12noon <i>Goring Gap News</i> copy deadline - 7pm for 7.30pm in Goring Library: <i>Downland</i> : talk, poems and art - 7.30pm Cleeve by Goring WI: <i>Indian Dance</i>
Friday 12 June	- 12noon <i>Genie News</i> copy deadline
Thurs 18 June	- 10.30-2pm Pick-a-Flick: <i>The Choral</i>
Wed 24 June	- 11am and 2pm The Arts Society Goring: <i>American Realist Edward Hopper</i> - 10.30am Friends of Goring Library coffee morning - 6.30pm WI evening in Nun's Acre river garden
Thurs 25 June	- 10.30am Goring Gap u3a: <i>Behind the scenes at the BBC in the 1970s</i>
Fri 26 June	- <i>Genie News</i> copy deadline



Free Fringe Music throughout the GAP Festival

The GAP Festival (12-21 June) is bursting with brilliant music this year, and not just on the main stages. A vibrant programme of free "fringe" events will be popping up throughout the festival, offering everything from stomping folk and soulful blues to sun-drenched Americana and lush indie rock.



Saturday 13 June – The Catherine Wheel, from 2.30pm: Including blues storyteller Jim Reynolds, the guitar-accordion trio Harlequin (pictured), and a host of others. Highlights include Pete Orton's music-and-humour set (2.30pm), Jim Reynolds (3pm), Harlequin (4.30pm), Baum, Maggs & Taylor (5.30pm), Foxpalmer (7pm) and Greg Mayston's Folk, Blues & Americana (7.30pm).

Thursday 18 June – The Miller of Mansfield, from 4.30pm: A packed evening of folk, blues, Americana and more. The line-up features Harlequin (4.30pm), family band Furlong (5pm), duo STEM (5.30pm), singer-songwriter Steve Daniels (6pm), The Rural Broadband (6.30pm), Rain Dogs (7pm), The Mysteries (8pm) and Dream Sellers (9pm).

Sunday 21 June – Rectory Gardens. From 10am: A relaxed morning set from Harlequin in the beautiful Rectory Gardens. **3pm: Festival Finale Picnic Concert** with the Goring and Streatley Concert Band and local school choirs.

For even more music, don't miss the ticketed events: *Three Idle Women* (16 June) and the high-energy *George Montague* supported by *David Caswell* and *The Moonseeds* (19 June), both at Goring Village Hall. More information at: www.thegapfestival.org/events.

Notice to the Community re vandalism at Goring Tennis Club



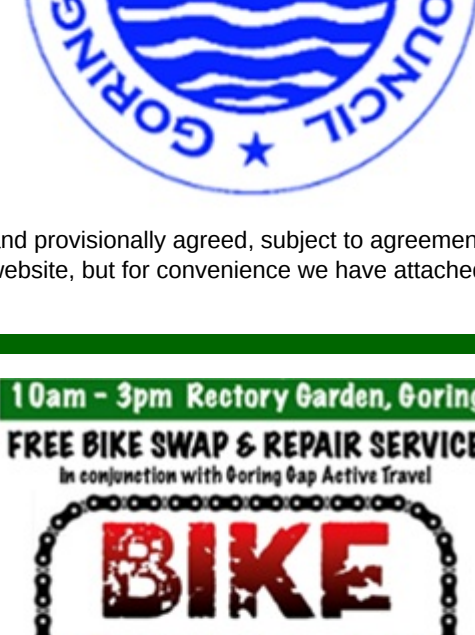
Bob Knapp, the Treasurer writes:

Following a highly successful start to our season with a fantastic response to both our tennis and new pickleball sessions, Goring Tennis Club (Sheepcot Recreation Ground) was sadly the target of vandalism overnight on Saturday, 16 May. The side of the clubhouse was heavily defaced with a graffiti tag ("tango" with a skull and crown), and a large amount of party litter and bottles was left behind.

Thames Valley Police have been notified (CRN: 43260244171). While our members are volunteering their time at short notice to paint over the damage pending a full insurance claim, we shouldn't have to tolerate this standard of behaviour in the Goring and Streatley community.

We are asking local residents to please remain vigilant. If you notice any suspicious activity around the club or the recreation ground during the evenings, please report it via 101. Thank you for your continued support in helping us protect our village amenities!

Goring-on-Thames Parish Council – A new Chairperson, a request to expand the number of councillors and a new list of all the committee's membership



The Parish Council has asked the Community Governance and Electoral Issues Committee at SODC to consider their request to expand the council from 10 to 13 councillors. The SODC committee are to consider the request at its September meeting.

At its Annual Council Meeting on 18 May, the Chair of the council changed to Cllr Toby Thurston with the previous Chair, Cllr Sonia Lofthouse, taking on the role of Deputy Chair. Membership of all the standing and other committees was discussed by the parish council and provisionally agreed, subject to agreement of absent councillors. This list is published on the council's website, but for convenience we have attached it [HERE](#).

Saturday 6 June – The Miller of Mansfield, from 4.30pm

As usual the Repair Café will be held in Goring Village Hall between 10am-12.30pm, where there will be around 12 unpaid volunteer Repairers on duty to try to fix your broken items free of charge. (Please note that our popular specialist garden tools sharpener, John Lynch, will be away on holiday on that date).



At the same time, outside in the Rectory Garden, there will be a special event all to do with bicycles! This will also start at 10am but go on for longer until 3pm. So, bring your bike to get checked over and fixed if necessary by competent bike repairers – or exchange it for a different one if you find one which will suit your needs better.

Both these events are organised and funded by the Goring Gap Environmental Organisation (GGEO). On this occasion, sitting in the village hall will be John Rogers, a founding Trustee of GGEO. Having been involved in a number of environmental organizations, both as practical volunteer and organizer, including time as a Resource Bank librarian and researcher for the Conservation Trust in Reading, John would be delighted to answer any environmental questions people may have and also about volunteering and GGEO.

For further information visit goringrepaircafe.info and ggeo.org. We look forward to a good turnout for both events and to preventing lots of carbon emissions!!

Walled Gardens of Wallingford

Sunday 15 June 2026

www.walledgardensofwallingford.co.uk

- Tickets £10 Online and at Root One Garden Centre, KP Stationers and Corn Exchange – Children Free.
- All proceeds to local charities.
- **Tickets must be purchased before the event.**
- **No tickets will be for sale on the day.**

Refreshments + Stalls + Morris Dancers + Boat Trips

Click [HERE](#) to see a large version of the poster with a QR code.



Bloom needs some physically fit volunteers to help with a number of tasks this summer. Can you help please?

As you may know, Goring-on-Thames in Bloom is one of only seven finalists in the National Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) Britain in Bloom competition ('Small Town' category).



In an effort to give Goring the best chance of winning we need more people to help with the watering of the many floral containers we have planted up in Goring High Street and the Arcade area. This does not include any hanging baskets.

The National judges are coming to Goring at the end of July, so, if you can help, please email Stephanie (stephaniebridle@btinternet.com) to get in touch for a chat and also visit our [website](#). Thank you.

Beware – The 'Nottingham Knockers' are in the area again



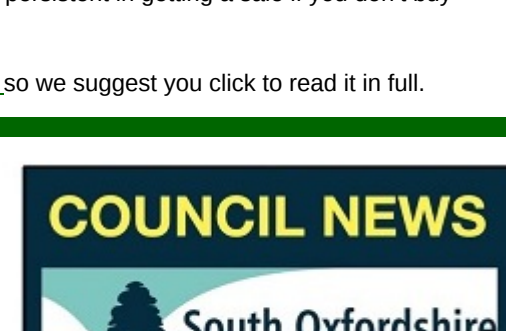
If you haven't yet experienced a knock on your door from a Nottingham Knocker, Thames Valley Police have issued advice to households on who they are and how best to deal with them. See below and click to read their full advice.

In brief, Nottingham Knockers are usually young men who go door to door, selling inexpensive household products at high prices. They are dropped off early in the morning in a particular location by a large van and are then transported around that area throughout the day until approx. 9pm.

They will present to make you feel they are working hard to start a new life after a mis-spent youth and offer to show you ID which will likely be 'Hawkers Work Creation' and usually say they have just been released from prison. This organisation doesn't actually exist and is purely a laminated piece of card with their picture on. They will carry a large holdall style bag which contains various household items at high prices and will try and hard sell to make more money. They will also tell you about how they are trying to hard to make a better life for themselves and can be very persistent in getting a sale if you don't buy anything from them.

We have attached the full text of the Police advice [HERE](#) so we suggest you click to read it in full.

District Councillor April/May 2026 update from Cllr Maggie Filipova-Rivers, Ward member for Goring and South Stoke



This update includes articles on the following topics:

- SODC AGM
- Local Government Reorganisation and Devolution
- Joint Local Plan and Planning Update
- Waste
- Economic Development and Infrastructure
- Housing and Homelessness
- Community Grants

To read the report in full please see [HERE](#).

Planning Alerts – Service Update



A pause while systems change

For regular news, GENIE News has provided a regular twice-monthly Planning Alert service, listing local planning applications across Goring, Streatley and South Stoke.

Due to recent changes to the South Oxfordshire District Council planning system, it is no longer possible to reliably search and compile comprehensive parish-level application lists in the way we have done previously. As accuracy and completeness are essential to this service, we have taken the decision to pause the Planning Alerts feature for now.

This is not necessarily a permanent change. With wider local government reorganisation expected over the coming year, including potential changes to how planning services are delivered, we will review and, where possible, reintroduce a refreshed and reliable version of this service.

In the meantime, you can still search for and comment on planning applications directly using the official council websites below. If you know an address, postcode or application reference, these tools remain the most accurate and up-to-date source of information.

South Oxfordshire District Council (SODC)
Find and comment on applications: <https://southoxfordshire.planning-register.co.uk/>
How to comment effectively: <https://www.southoxon.gov.uk/south-oxfordshire-district-council/planning-and-development/comment-on-planning-applications/how-to-comment-on-a-planning-application-effectively/>

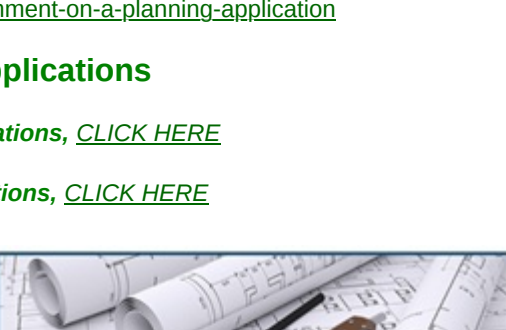
West Berkshire Council (WBC)
Find and comment on applications: <https://www.westberks.gov.uk/article/40109/Find-and-comment-on-a-planning-application>

Check here on all past local planning applications

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

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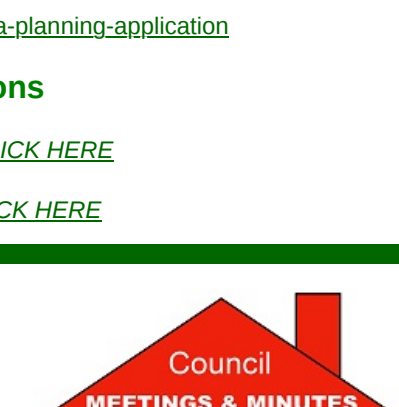
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Local Parish Councils

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

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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