genie VILLAGE MATTERS

Gap Electronic News & Information Exchange
Free community e-newsletters serving the Goring Gap

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Issue 209, 30 June 2026

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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 July

In this issue: Road closure; Goring Primary Summer Fête; Chilterns Discovery Day; Festival Wrap-up; What's On in July and a Piano & Violin Recital.

Road Closure – A329 Reading Road

13 July to 18 July between 19.00 and 05.00 daily

The road will be closed overnight from just past the Bull to the junction with Church Lane, Lower Basildon.

Residential access will be maintained if possible.
Blue light access will be available.

This is for resurfacing. Volker Highways are undertaking this work on behalf of West Berkshire Council. www.volkerhighways.co.uk.

Should you have any queries regarding the work, please do not hesitate to contact West Berkshire Council's Customer Services Team on 01635 519 080.

This information is correct at the time of writing, but subject to change.

Goring Primary Summer Fête!

Saturday 4 July 12noon-3pm

From 12noon onwards, the school grounds will transform into a bustling summer fair packed with activities for all ages.

- Craft stalls, face painting, glitter tattoos, and a 2nd hand book stall. The bottle tombola will be returning, along with the teddy tombola, and many more games.
- There will also be performances from the school orchestra and the school choir.
- Raffle with some amazing prizes that have been very generously donated by local businesses, including gift vouchers, hampers, days out, family swim, meals out, takeaways, etc.

All funds raised will support school projects and enrichment activities, helping to provide fantastic opportunities for pupils.

Mark the date, bring your friends, and enjoy a wonderful day of fun, food, and community spirit.

Chilterns Discovery Day

Saturday 11 and Sunday 12 July

This July locals and visitors are invited to slow their pace and see the Chilterns National Landscape differently during the first ever Chilterns Discovery Day weekend.

Taking place across the Chilterns, this open invitation brings together 30 Chilterns experiences designed to celebrate the landscapes, heritage, food, wildlife and communities that make the Chilterns so loved by locals and visitors alike.

Across the weekend, you can enjoy seasonal local menus, enjoy the River Thames on or off the water, watch the moon rise over Ivinghoe Beacon, take the family to an outdoor theatre performance or take part in yoga in the woods. From stargazing and trail walks to family-friendly attractions, there's something for everyone to enjoy.

All 30 experiences, together with booking information and event details, can be found at: https://www.chilternstreasures.com/

Festival 2026 – Festival Wrap-Up

The Festival organisers write:

- The GAP Festival brought ten days of creativity and celebration to Goring & Streatley from 12–21 June, with this year's "Journey of Discovery" theme inspiring a vibrant programme enjoyed in glorious weather.
- With over 70 events across music, talks, workshops, family activities and outdoor experiences, attendance was strong throughout, with more than 3,300 tickets booked and many more people attending the free events too.
- Audiences enjoyed a diverse programme, including daily wellbeing sessions and art workshops, a sell-out three-night run of Opera at Streatley Farmhouse, the hugely popular Wonders of the Natural World family day, a return of our Open Gardens plus music, plays, talks and much more.
- In the run up to the festival more than 40 volunteers and committee members worked for months in advance planning events, coordinating marketing, managing ticketing, updating the website and ensuring everything was ready to go.
- During the festival itself, more than 50 additional volunteers supported events on the ground. They marshalled, assisted workshop hosts, put out chairs, ran bars, operated sound and lighting and captured the whole event in photos and videos. Their dedication kept the festival running smoothly from morning to night.
- A heartfelt thank you to everyone involved: our volunteers, sponsors, performers, hosts, supporters and audiences. Your enthusiasm and commitment make the festival possible.
- Did you attend the GAP Festival? We'd love to hear your thoughts. Share your feedback in our quick survey for a chance to WIN 2 TICKETS for 2028: https://forms.gle/e1rfouFXdbzrfMqe9

Photo Credit: D Gristwood – click the photo for a larger version

What's On – for the month of July 2026

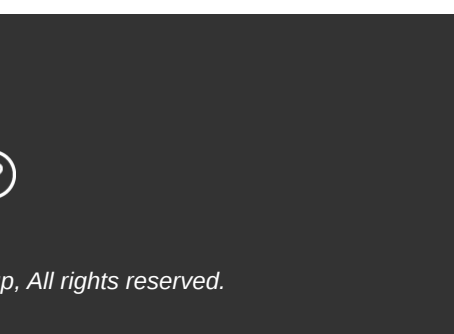
Below is a selection of some of the upcoming events on the Genie Calendar

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

Wed 1 July	7.30pm Goring Village Green Fingers: *The gardens of the Cotswolds* by Anna Steven
Thurs 2 July	8-11.30am Mobile post office outside Westholme Stores. Weekly. Also Tuesdays 1.30-4pm
Friday 3 July	10am-5pm Withymead is open on Fridays and Sundays until the end of August. Cream teas on the last Sunday of the month
Sat 4 July	Summer Reading Challenge starts at Goring Library
Sun 5 July	10-12noon Citizen Science at Withymead
Wed 8 July	12noon *Goring Gap News* copy deadline 7.30pm Cleeve by Goring WI: *Living on a house boat* by Karen and Brett Wiles
Fri 10 July	7.30pm Three Pressed Men in concert at Cholsey Pavilion
Sat 11July	10am-2pm Goring Gap u3a Open Day
Sun 12 July	*Genie News* copy deadline 2-4pm Poetry by the River at Withymead
Thurs 16 July	10.30-2pm Pick-a-Flick: *The Calendar Girls*
Sat 18 July	10am-12.45pm Cholsey Repair Café
Sun 19 July	8pm FIFA World Cup Final
Mon 20 July	7.30pm Goring Gap Local History Society AGM/social
Fri 24 July	10am-12noon and 2-4pm Decorate a Pebble for Goring Library Garden
Sat 25 July	11am-4pm Family Archaeology Day at Wallingford Museum
Sun 26 July	*Genie News* copy deadline Cream teas at Withymead
Wed 29 July	Monster soup. 2-3.30pm and 3.30-5pm (ages 5-10) Puppet workshop – book at Goring Library

Piano & Violin Recital

3pm Saturday 18 July, St Thomas' Church, Goring



Pianist Mary Daniels will be joined by fellow pianist Edward Knighton, and violinist Maxton Pitcher in a varied and beautiful recital with an emphasis on contrasts.

Music by Beethoven, Chopin, Rameau, Frank Bridge, Bach, Fauré and more.

Free entry but any donations will go towards church funds.

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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