

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 26 August

In this issue: Road closure; Goring Village Hall major project underway; Pedestrian Safety survey update; G&S Young Musicians; What's On for August; County & District Councillor reports, Water Quality Monitoring results; and Britain in Bloom judges toured Goring

Road Closure – A329 Wallingford Road, Cholsey

From now until midnight on 4 September, the section of the road leading up to the turning into Papist Way and part of Papist Way are closed all the time.

This is because of work by Scotia Gas Works (SGN).

See map [HERE](#).



Major project underway at Goring Village Hall

The existing heating system is being replaced with a more modern and sustainable system. Approximately 90% of the cost of the project will be covered by a grant from FCC Communities Foundation, a not-for-profit organisation that awards grants for community projects through the Landfill Communities Fund.

Several years ago, the village hall trustees agreed it was time to replace the current system, which comprises several radiators heated by individual gas boilers. A report from a firm of consultants recommended air source heat pumps (ASHP) providing heat to fan units to be mounted high on the walls of the two rooms. The new solution will be more economical and significantly more sustainable than the current heating, while being at least as effective.



Preparatory work has already started. The main work is scheduled to begin at the end of the summer and is expected to be completed by the end of 2026. The Village Hall Committee and the contractors will do their best to ensure that disruption is kept to a minimum and that hirers and everyone else concerned are aware of what is going on.

For more details read the full article [HERE](#).

Pedestrian Safety and Traffic Calming

Survey Update



The Parish Council recently used GGN and social media to request local people's feedback, via a poll about the options for pedestrian safety and traffic calming improvement projects in Goring. They now plan to relaunch their consultation in late August, following clarification of the descriptions of the five schemes under consideration. Full details, including the survey link and the Explainer, will be in the next edition of *Genie*.

Thank you to everyone who took the time to respond to the original survey, your feedback is exactly what's shaping this improved version.

Goring and Streatley Young Musicians Trust Charity Jazz Concert

Friday 14 August at 8pm in Goring Village Hall

It's back ...

The annual fundraising jazz concert that combines youth and experience!

Tickets now available.



Goring and Streatley Young Musicians Trust

There will be café seating around tables and the Trust will also be running a bar. You are welcome to bring your own nibbles but there will be some "emergency snacks" available.

Tickets £13 adults, £5 under 18s. Available from: www.trybooking.com/uk/GJHB.

What's On – for the month of August 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:

Sun 2 August	12noon-2pm Goring & Streatley Concert Band at Henley Bandstand
Tues 4 August	1.30-4pm Mobile post office outside Westholme Stores. Weekly. Also Thursdays 8-11.30am
Wed 5 August	12noon <i>Goring Gap News</i> copy deadline 10-11am Build a festival in Lego at Goring Library. Please book
Fri 7 August	10am-5pm Withymead Nature Reserve is open on Fridays and Sundays until the end of August. Cream teas on Sunday 30 August
Wed 12 August	8-10pm Soundbar Open Mic at the Miller of Mansfield
Fri 14 August	8-10pm Charity Jazz Concert in aid of G&S Young Musicians Trust
Sun 16 August	2-5pm Tea and cakes at Goring lock provided by Goring and Cleeve WI 3-4.45pm Goring & Streatley Concert Band at Goring lock
Wed 19 August	10.30am-12noon Songs/storytelling/making musical instruments at Goring Library. Please book.
Thurs 20 August	10.30-2pm Pick-a-Flick: <i>The Calendar Girls</i> (July had to be cancelled)
Sat 22 August	12noon-5pm Cholsey Village Show
Tues 25 August	4.45-6.45pm Play Dave at chess at Goring Library
Wed 26 August	<i>Genie News</i> copy deadline
Thurs 27 August	10.30-12noon Goring Gap u3a talk: <i>A Barber and a Surgeon – Medicine in Victorian times</i>
Sun 30 August	2-5pm Cream teas at Withymead - Art exhibition in Goring Village Hall by Howard Birchmore – also on Monday
Mon 31 August	1-5pm South Stoke Open Gardens

Reports for June/July 2026

District Councillor Maggie Filipova-Rivers, Ward member for Goring and South Stoke and also County Councillor

The OCC county report contains the following sections:

1. LGR and Devolution
2. Budget Update
3. Transport
4. Economic Development and Infrastructure Planning
5. Climate and Environment
6. Children Services

To read it click [HERE](#).



The SODC report contains the following sections:

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To read it click [HERE](#).

National Britain in Bloom judges toured Goring on Tuesday 29 July

Outcome will be announced on 20 October at Rochdale Town Hall



Following a welcoming presentation on the history, philosophy and work of Goring's Bloom group, the judges were taken on a 2-hour tour of its many current projects, encompassing horticultural excellence, environmental responsibility and community involvement, the three categories on which entrants are judged. It started with a visit to the new library garden and ended with a journey down-river, from the Withymead nature reserve to Goring Lock. The judging party finally returned to Goring Village Hall for a buffet lunch organised by Cleeve WI and an opportunity to meet members of the wider community who had contributed in many different ways to the National Entry.

Although the judges have left to visit other *Small Town* entries throughout the UK, Goring in Bloom hopes that its work and projects will continue to amaze and delight the residents of South Oxfordshire. The beautiful and thought-provoking art installation "Winged Wonders" which tells the story of the threat to our pollinating insects, and ultimately to our food supply, will remain on show throughout the summer holiday period. Please do take a look.

A plea for more help with the watering of Goring's many containers – if you can offer support at this difficult time please contact Stephanie on 07778 739430.

Water Quality Monitoring in the Goring Gap

Volunteer citizen scientists from the Goring Gap have just completed their third water sampling project which entailed measuring the levels of the E. Coli bacteria present in a number of locations along our river banks. A brief summary of the study completed this month is below.



During 2024 and 2025, GGEO volunteers also contributed towards two large studies providing data for Thames21, another environmental charity, to support applications for Bathing Water status for 'Wallingford Beach' and 'Pangbourne Meadows', both of which are now 'Designated Bathing Waters'.

However, to provide some up-to-date information for river users and to build up a local database, GGEO volunteers have taken 27 samples, one every day between 25 June – 21 July, at 9 locations between Withymead Nature Reserve and downstream to Hartslock. To ensure our technique for collecting, handling and analysing the samples is standardised, the protocol used is in line with the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) which was reviewed by staff at the Environment Agency laboratories at Caversham where national water quality monitoring is carried out and used by other local groups including the Henley water team with whom we collaborate.

The results are ranked according to the EA's 4-tier classification from 'Excellent' to 'Poor', based on the number of E. Coli in each 100ml of water (along with another bacteria, *Intestinal Enterococci*). Excellent being the cleanest water quality and Poor not meeting the minimum standard (ie more than 900 E. Coli/100ml) when the EA advise against bathing. (See: <https://datahq.sas.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/Bathing-Water-Classifications-explained.pdf>). Basically, of the 27 samples taken, 16 (59.3%) were classified as 'Excellent', 2 (7.4%) were 'Sufficient' and 9 (33.3%) were 'Poor'. (The majority of the Poor readings, i.e. 8 of the 9, were not in the main river, but sampling sites in water courses connecting to the river).

It should be noted that of the many strains of E.Coli found in river water most appear harmless and some may actually be beneficial, so the numbers in these samples do not necessarily reflect the relative risk to human health. Full details on this and related subjects will soon be published on GGEO's website (ggeo.online).

Some other websites of interest include:

UK Live Sewage Map: <https://datahq.sas.org.uk/sewage-data-hq/>

Safer Seas & Rivers Map: <https://datahq.sas.org.uk/sewage-data-hq/is-it-safe-to-swim/>

Thames Water Live Discharge Map: <https://www.thameswater.co.uk/edm-map>

Local river information: <https://ggeo.online/the-thames-in-the-goring-gap/> and <https://ggeo.online/project/water-quality-monitoring-project/>

NB: Anyone can view the Goring data online (and also download it if you have an iPhone) by visiting the Apple Store and searching for 'HotWater'.

For further information or clarification, please email ronbride@btinternet.com.



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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