

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.

Genie is now published monthly, usually on the 30th of each month. The submission date for articles for the next issue is 26 September.

In this issue: M4 closure; Repair Café; September What's On; Boathouse Surgery Update; Electric Blanket testing; George Michael Documentary; Pangbourne Art Group Exhibition; Wallingford Museum latest

The M4 motorway will close for a weekend next month to allow for repairs to a damaged electricity tower

The road will be inaccessible between junctions 10 and 11 from 21:00 BST on Friday 18 September to 06:00 BST on Monday, 21 September.



In February, a fallen tree badly damaged a tower in Winnersh in Berkshire. The line was immediately switched off, and the network was re-routed. A replacement tower was installed in Winnersh in July and the final stage of the work involves running new high-voltage wires across the M4.

Owing to the nature of the "delicate" work, carrying it out overnight had been ruled out.

Next Free Goring Repair & Exchange (aka Swap Shop) Saturday 12 September, Goring Village Hall, 10am-12.30pm

For regular attendees and for those who have never yet been to this free service, the next event is coming up on 12 September. So this is your chance to get your broken items looked at by our experienced team of skilled repairers, who on average manage to fully repair, or at least partially repair depending on whether a spare part is needed, about 70% of what is brought in.

At the same time in the Bellême Room, there is the free 'Swap Shop', and on this occasion you can donate any unwanted books, games & puzzles (in good condition) and take away another book, game or puzzle donated by someone else, avoiding the need to buy a replacement, and therefore helping to reduce carbon emissions.

Also in the kitchen, there will be the usual selection of delicious home-baked cakes and other refreshments, so even if you don't have anything for repair or swapping this time, pop into the main hall and the café and have a look around in preparation for the next event on Saturday 5 December.

Click [HERE](#) to see more comprehensive details published in the current August *Goring Gap News* (page 25) and also visit the Book Exchange FAQ section of our [Goringrepaircafe website](#).



What's On – for the month of September 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 2 Sep	-12noon <i>Goring Gap News</i> copy deadline -7.30pm Goring Village Green Fingers: Spring bulbs
Thurs 3 Sep	8-11.30am Mobile post office outside Westholme Stores. Weekly. Also Tuesdays 1.30-4pm
Fri 4-Sun 6 Sep	Bunkfest in Wallingford
Wed 9 Sept	7.30pm Goring by Cleeve WI: <i>The University of Reading: our first 100 years.</i>
Sat 12 Sep	-10am-12.30pm Goring Repair and Exchange Café -11am Prize draw for Summer Reading Challenge at Goring Library
Sun 13 Sept	4pm St Mary's Concert: Ikuko Inoguchi, Sally Goodworth and Hayley Tull
Wed 16 Sep	10.30am FOGL AGM in Goring Library
Thurs 17 Sep	10.30-2pm Pick-a-Flick: <i>H is for Hawk</i>
Mon 21 Sep	2.30pm Goring Gap Local History Society: <i>The Women's Institute in World War II</i>
Wed 23 Sept	11am and 2pm The Arts Society, Goring: <i>The irritating and Influential James Abbott McNeill Whistler</i>
Thurs 24 Sep	10.30-12noon Goring Gap u3a talk: <i>The Joys and Perils of being an Author</i>
Fri 25 Sep	-7.30pm Goring Unplugged -7pm Morrell Room FOGL Author talk: Tom Hindle
Sat 26 Sep	<i>Genie News</i> copy deadline

Goring Boathouse Dental Surgery Practice Update

They write:

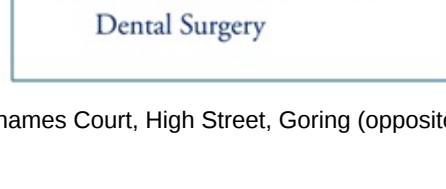
Dear Patients,

We would like to give you an update on our pending move to Thames Court, High Street, Goring (opposite the Arcade).

All is going well with the building work and refurbishments. We are now entering the final leg of renovations and decorations. However, we are awaiting the rubber stamp from two governing bodies – the Care Quality Commission (CQC) and the National Health Service (NHS). We have been told that this may be another month, so hopefully by the end of September we will be on the move.

We will of course keep in full communication with you but, until then, please assume normal practice at The Boathouse.

Warm regards,
Atul & The Boathouse Team, The Boathouse Dental Surgery



Free electric blanket testing for Oxfordshire residents

By Fire & Rescue Services in September & October – see full details below

This annual safety service will be available at a number of specified locations in local towns, the nearest two being at Abingdon Fire Station OX14 5DH on 25 September and Wantage Fire Station OX12 8DU on 9 October. There are also 8 other dates throughout September and October in different locations.

Other electrical heated products can also be checked including throws and heating pads and for people unable to take their products to the testing stations, a limited collection and return service is available on request.



To book your safety check appointment, from 9am onwards, see [HERE](#), or for further information, please call 01865 519800 (which is an automated service) or email: duty.officer@oxfordshire.gov.uk.

George Michael Documentary

The company "Who Knew?" travelled to Goring to document the George Michael Weekend and meet a community of the people who continue to gather there each year to celebrate his life and music. It covers fans attending the event, 'Outside 25', held at George Michael's former home in Goring.

They originally expected to make a film about the event itself, but what they found was a much wider story about the community that has grown around George Michael's legacy. The film has a strong focus on the fans and their relationship with his music through their lives and the community who continue to come together in George's memory.



First episode has now been released. You can watch it here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Aus8U3OU3E8>.

Pangbourne Art Group Annual Exhibition

Pangbourne Village Hall, Saturday 17 and Sunday 18 October, 10am to 5pm

Local artists are displaying their work. More than a hundred paintings will be on display and visitors can also buy cards and enjoy tea, coffee and homemade cakes.



They are a friendly club, meeting on Wednesday afternoons from 1 to 4pm and welcoming artists of all abilities.

Wallingford Museum News

Saturday 19 September 2026

- 'Fabulous Fossils' by the Oxfordshire Geology Trust – a Family Fun Activity: handle fossils from Oxfordshire and around the world.
- Drop-In 11am-1pm or 2-4pm. Please note normal museum admission prices apply £6pp and children free.

Join a Castle History walk. Saturday 26 September

- Explore what remains of Wallingford Castle with an expert guide.
- Meet at Wallingford Museum for 2.30pm departure. £5 PP. No booking required.



Wallingford – Town guided History Walks continue every Saturday until end of September 2026

Whether you a visitor to Wallingford or a resident of long-standing or new to the town, the guided town walks offer something for everyone.

- Tours meet beneath the Town Hall in Wallingford Market Place and start at 11am.
- Cost is £5 per head, for a tour lasting between 90 -120 mins.
- Payment must be made by cash on the day
- No advance booking, just turn up.

For more details click [HERE](#), <https://www.wallingfordmuseum.org.uk>.

Planning Alerts – Service Update

A pause while systems change

For many years, 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](#)

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

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.

If you like it, please forward to your friends and encourage them to subscribe. Also, to ensure you consistently receive the e-mails it is suggested that you either 'whitelist' subscribe@genienews.org or **add us to your contact list**.

More details on Genie newsletters [here](#).