

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 October.

In this issue: Streatley Youth Hostel, with 21 days left; Churn Lodge planning application 25/02375/FUL, to be decided on 7 October; Cleeve Road closure until 12 February; winter closures of the permissive footpath on Reading Road; the £100,000 South Nature and Climate Action Fund; what's on in October, including the Triple Ensemble Recital on 17 October; police visits to Goring Arcade; the County Councillor report; a warning about the FIT meter scam in Goring; and police advice on the "Kick Door" challenge.

Road Closure: Cleeve Road

From 28 September 2026 to 12 February 2027 - 24 hours daily

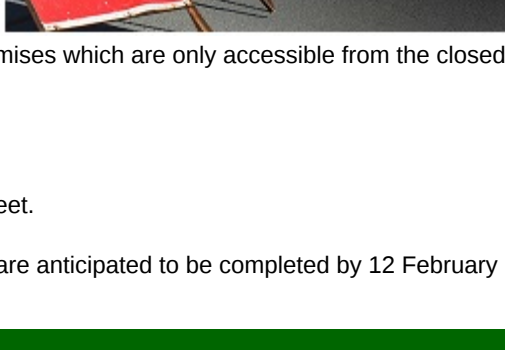
Cleeve Road is closed from the junction with Mill Road to outside No 21 (opposite the vehicular entrance to the Gardiner Field).

Exemptions for emergency services and for access to premises which are only accessible from the closed section of the road.

Access will be maintained for cyclists and pedestrians.

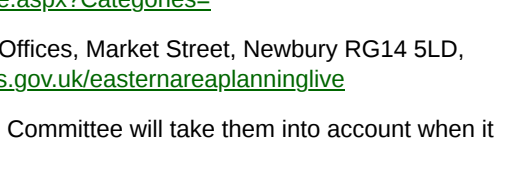
Alternative route: Mill Road – Wallingford Road – High Street.

This is for a gas main replacement in three phases which are anticipated to be completed by 12 February 2027.



Planning application 25/02375/FUL Churn Lodge, to be decided on 7 October

(We have been asked by the Streatley Parish Council to pass on this information. Genie would not normally focus on a specific planning application, but apparently there has been great interest in this one. -Editor)



West Berkshire Council's Eastern Area Planning Committee will consider application 25/02375/FUL (Churn Lodge) on Wednesday 7 October 2026 at 6:30pm.

The committee report should be available to read at least five clear working days before the meeting. You can find it on the Council's decision making pages: <http://decisionmaking.westberks.gov.uk/leDocHome.aspx?Categories=>

The meeting will be held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Market Street, Newbury RG14 5LD, and also online. You can watch it live here: www.westberks.gov.uk/easternareapanninglive

If you have already sent comments on this application, the Committee will take them into account when it makes its decision. You do not need to resubmit them.

If you would like to speak at the meeting, you must register in advance. Please email planningcommittee@westberks.gov.uk by 4pm on Tuesday 6 October 2026, the working day before the meeting.

Permissive Footpath Closures

The popular permissive footpath that allows walkers to stay off the B4526 Reading Road between Summerhill Shaw and Park Farm will be shut on selected Fridays and Tuesdays for the winter season.

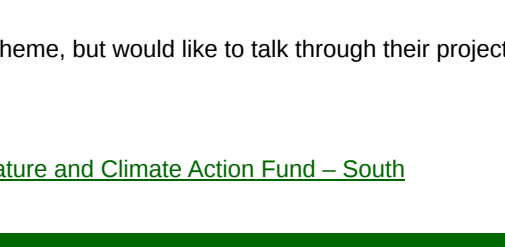


The path will be closed on Fridays October – January, apart from: 20 Nov; 11 and 25 Dec; 1, 15 and 22 Jan. It will also be closed on these Tuesdays: 29 Sept.; 27 Nov; 8, 22 and 29 Dec; 12, 19 and 26 Jan. Please avoid the path on these dates and follow any local signs.

South Nature and Climate Action fund Opened 28 September

SODC has £100,000 to award to projects across South Oxfordshire which support communities to take action to address and adapt to climate change and support nature recovery. Grants of between £250 to £10,000 will be available for projects which could focus on areas such as:

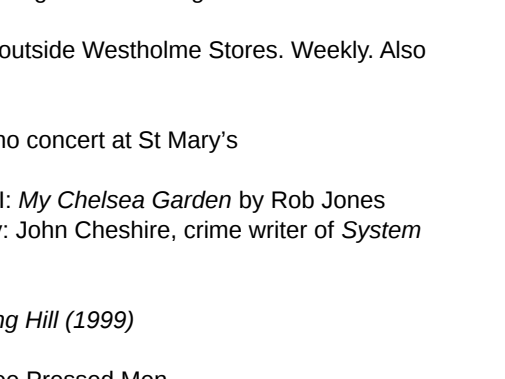
- Energy
- Waste and consumption
- Transport and travel
- Adaptation
- Nature recovery
- Community access to nature



If you know of organisations that could benefit from this scheme, but would like to talk through their project ideas, please signpost them to the climate team Climataction@southandvale.gov.uk.

Further information can be found on the website: South Nature and Climate Action Fund – South Oxfordshire District Council

What's On – for the month of October 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 30 Sep	12noon <i>Goring Gap News</i> copy deadline
Thurs 1 October	9.30am-4pm Newbury RDA Autumn Gift Fair in Yattendon
Sun 4 October	2.30-4.30pm Book launch in the Morrell Room – <i>Rivering</i> by Cherry Coombe
Wed 7 October	7.30pm Goring Village Green Fingers: <i>Gardening on Chalk</i>
Thurs 8 October	8-11.30am Mobile post office outside Westholme Stores. Weekly. Also Tuesdays 1.30-4pm
Sun 11 October	4pm Classical Guitar and Piano concert at St Mary's
Wed 14 October	• 7.30pm Goring by Cleeve WI: <i>My Chelsea Garden</i> by Rob Jones • 7pm Author talk at the library: John Cheshire, crime writer of <i>System Lockout</i>
Thurs 15 October	10.30-2pm Pick-a-Flick: <i>Notting Hill</i> (1999)
Fri 16 October	7pm Chelsey history with Three Pressed Men
Sat 17 October	• 3pm Triple Ensemble Recital in St Thomas' • 10am-5pm Pangbourne Art Group Exhibition in Pangbourne Village Hall. Also on Sunday.
Mon 19 October	2.30pm Goring Gap Local History Society: <i>Soldiery of the English Civil War seen through the lens of the Sealed Knot</i>
Fri 23 October	6pm South Stoke Fireworks (in aid of the school)
Mon 24 – Fri 30 October	Half term • Scarecrow trail – map from The Garden Design Studio. • Goring Library – free crafts and trail – <i>Enchanted woods</i>
Mon 26 October	<i>Genie News</i> copy deadline
Wed 28 October	11am and 2pm The Arts Society, Goring: <i>The Extraordinary and Outlandish Royal Pavilion</i>
Thurs 29 October	10.30-12noon Goring Gap u3a talk. TBC
Sat 31 October	6.30pm Quiz Night for Twinning at Goring Heath Parish Hall

Triple Ensemble Recital St Thomas' Church, Goring

Saturday 17 October, 3-4pm

Come and enjoy a recital from three local musical ensembles, the Clarinet Ensemble, Flute Ensemble and The Jazz Group, all formed from members of the excellent Goring and Streatley Concert Band.



Established over the last three years, all three have flourished and rehearse regularly. In this three-part recital you will hear a variety of pieces from each group's repertoire including classical, jazz, popular, blues, folk and ragtime. Composers will include Scott Joplin, Schubert, Pachelbel, James Power, Herbie Hancock, and Bart Howard.

This will be the first time that all three ensembles perform at the same recital, so it promises plenty of variety, with music to suit all tastes. Why not come along and support your local musicians!

There will be no charge but donations to Wallingford Food Bank will be welcome

Dates of police visits to Goring Arcade

Goring's Police Community Support Officer, Graham Davey, would like local residents to know that he will be available to chat to anyone who wishes to discuss any relevant issues they may have on the following Saturday mornings between 11am – 12noon: 17 October, 14 November & 12 December.



Here is message:

Dear residents,

We are encouraging the public to have their say, at events at Goring Arcade, High Street, Goring on Saturday mornings between 11am and 12pm. These meetings give you the opportunity to raise any concerns and to find out what we are doing to tackle the issues that matter to you. Everyone is welcome and it would be great to see you there.



PCSO Davey - C3852

County Councillor Report: August/September 2026 from Cllr Maggie Filipova-Rivers

This report covers the following items:

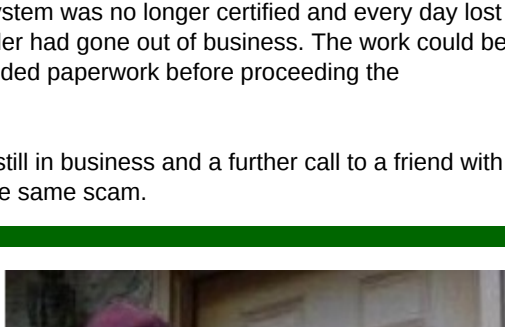
- o Local Government Reorganisation
- o Transport and Highways
 - o 20mph: Parish and Town Council Review
 - o A4074 Gas Main Works
 - o Goring to Wallingford Greenway: Encouraging Progress
 - o Goring Gap Local Cycling and Walking Plan
 - o Gully Cleaning and Flooding Reports
 - o Grass Cutting and Highway Visibility
 - o Oxford Traffic Filters: Trial Starts 28 September
- o Public Health and Wellbeing
- o Free Electric Blanket Safety Checks
- o Rural Health and Making Every Contact Count
- o Children and Young People



Please click [HERE](#) to read the report.

Streatley Youth Hostel: 21 days left

Streatley Youth Hostel (Hill House) has been put up for sale again by the Youth Hostels Association. It will go to an online live-stream auction on 21 October with a guide price of £650,000, about £200,000 less than the last reserve price three years ago.



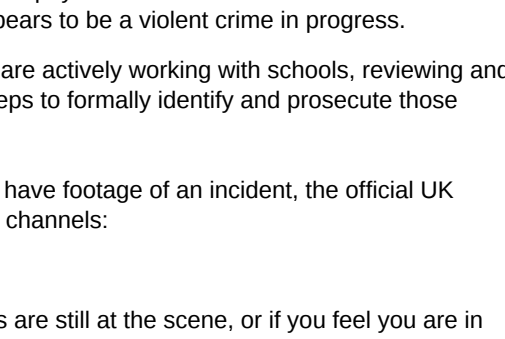
The auctioneer is not making continued use as a youth hostel a condition of the sale. No new bookings will be taken after 10 October, and the hostel's staff will be made redundant on 21 October.

The hostel was gifted to the YHA in 1935 by Mrs Florence Reiss so that others, especially children, could enjoy this area. Unless someone steps in before the auction, that legacy will end.

The full article is attached [HERE](#). If you would like to respond in some way, please contact tonbridle@btinternet.com.

FIT meter scam in Goring

A warning to those with FIT (Feed in Tariff) meters



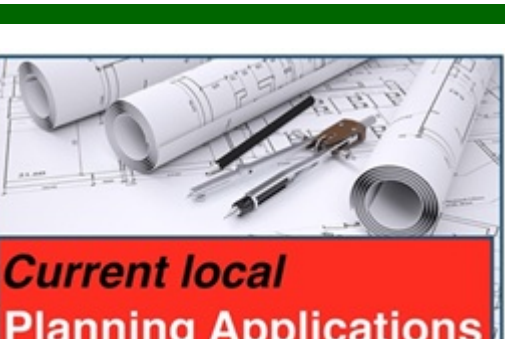
A Goring resident was phoned to tell them their FIT meter needed to be read. This was a routine occurrence and an appointment was made for the following day. When the "engineer" arrived he took a photo of the meter, again not unusual. But then he said he needed to inspect the inverter in the loft to check that it was performing correctly because it was reaching its anticipated end of life. It was a government requirement that the system was re-certified halfway through the contract. The householder reluctantly let him inspect the inverter.

He then produced photos of the dial on the inverter which "proved" it was faulty and needed replacement. He sent the photos to his "head office" but refused to send them to the householder, who was passed the phone to speak to them. The discussion turned to its replacement. The householder said he would speak to the original installer and was told the system was no longer certified and every day would mean he was losing money – and the original installer had gone out of business. The work could be done in two days time. When the householder said he needed paperwork before proceeding the "engineer" left.

A subsequent phone call proved the original installer was still in business and a further call to a friend with a solar installation proved that she too had experienced the same scam.

'Kick Door' Information

UK police forces have issued direct warnings regarding the viral "Door Kick Challenge" (sometimes referred to on social media as the "door-kicking" or "kick door" trend), labelling it as a serious criminal offense rather than a harmless prank.



What is the "Door Kick Challenge"

Participants (frequently teenagers and young adults) run up to residential properties, particularly late at night or early in the morning, and violently kick or slam against front doors or garages before fleeing. The act is often filmed to capture the shock or fear of the residents inside for views and likes on platforms like TikTok.

UK Police Advice and Warnings

Criminal Offences: UK law enforcement emphasizes that anyone aged 10 or over is above the age of criminal responsibility. Kicking doors intentionally causes distress and can easily result in criminal damage or anti-social behaviour charges.

Safety and Escalation Risks: Authorities stress that the loud, sudden banging mimics an aggressive break-in or home invasion. This places participants at severe physical risk if startled homeowners react defensively or if police are dispatched urgently to what appears to be a violent crime in progress.

School and CCTV Collaboration: Local UK policing teams are actively working with schools, reviewing and sharing CCTV and doorbell camera footage, and taking steps to formally identify and prosecute those involved.

If you have been targeted by the "Door Kick Challenge" or have footage of an incident, the official UK police advice is to report it immediately using the following channels:

How to Report the Incident

Call 999 if the crime is happening right now, if the suspects are still at the scene, or if you feel you are in immediate physical danger.

Call 101 for non-emergencies if the incident has already happened, the suspects have left, and there is no immediate threat to life.

Report online through your local police force's official website (such as the Thames Valley Police online reporting tool for the Berkshire area) to submit details without waiting on the phone.

What Information to Provide

Timestamps: Note the exact date and time the incident occurred, as police can cross-reference this with local street CCTV or other reported disturbances.

1 of 2 'Kick Door' information

Digital Evidence: Save and preserve any video or audio recordings from smart doorbells (like Ring or Nest), home CCTV, or dashcams. Do not post this footage directly to social media first, as it could compromise active police investigations.

Suspect Descriptions: Note down how many individuals were involved, their estimated age, gender, clothing (such as specific hoodies, tracksuits, or face Coverings), and their direction of travel when they fled.

Damages and Impact: Clearly state if your door, frame, or property sustained physical damage, and emphasize if the household includes vulnerable individuals, such as the elderly or young children, who have been severely distressed

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 the 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 end of each month. Unless stated otherwise, the items will refer to Goring-on-Thames, Streatley, South Stoke and the surrounding villages.

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