genie
VILLAGE MATTERS
Gap Electronic News & Information Exchange
Free community e-newsletters serving the Goring Gap
Email your news to news@genienews.org

Issue 214, 30 October 2026

View this email in your browser

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 November.

In this issue: new ticket machines being installed in SODC car parks, the sale of Streatley Youth Hostel at auction, and the new heating system going into Goring Village Hall. Goring-on-Thames in Bloom has won another RHS Gold, and we have news of the Boathouse Dental Surgery’s move to Thames Court. Goring Gap News and Lybbe’s Almshouses are both looking for volunteers and trustees. There is also the SODC District Councillor update for parish councils and a round-up of what’s on in November, including the Come and Sing Evensong and the Roy Bailey Big Band.

Update on SODC Car Parks

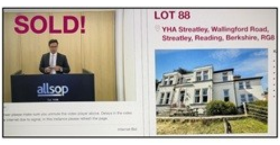
New parking ticket machines are being installed in the car parks in Didcot, Goring, Henley, Thame and Wallingford. This work starts this month (26 October in Wallingford).

The installation will take around ten days. The Council is anticipating minor disruptions to the parking payment system as the machines are being installed and commissioned.

For a short period at each car park, while engineers get the machines up and running, drivers will be unable to pay for parking and therefore will not need to pay. Signs will be displayed at the car parks by the tariff boards indicating the short period when there will be no need to pay. If the sign is not there you should pay as usual.

You may see parking staff who will be on hand to advise during the installation. Other parking rules still apply: Blue badge holders will still be required to display their blue badges. Vehicles must still be parked within the marked bays. Only electric vehicles should be parked in bays with EV chargers. Once the installation is complete, the machines will be able to accept cash payments as well as contactless (bank card or Apple pay or Google pay) – and drivers can pay using the PayByPhone app.

Sold for £675,000

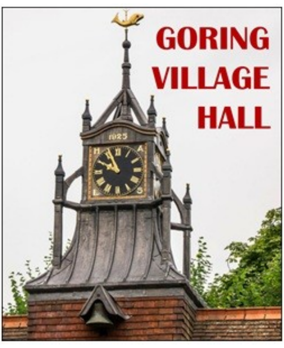

SOLD!
allsop
LOT 88
YHA Streatley, Wallingford Road, Streatley, Reading, Berkshire, RG8

On 21 October the Streatley Youth Hostel was sold at a large live-stream property auction run by Allsop, the UK’s leading property auction house for residential property.

Lot 88 was described as a Vacant Substantial Detached Freehold Building and the bidding started at £600,000. Bids came in from the assembled audience, online and via telephone. It gradually moved up and reached its reserve of £675,000 when the hammer came down at 1.55pm.The buyer has not been disclosed.

A few years ago the hostel was listed for sale at £850,000, but multiple near sales fell through and a year ago the YHA turned down higher offers, only to now sell it for much less.

Update on Goring Village Hall work



Installation work on the new heating system in Goring Village Hall will commence on Friday 30 October and will take between two and three weeks.

The plan is to work on the outside installation and the Bellême Room in the first week and the main hall in the second week. The third week will be spent tidying up, testing and commissioning the system.

While they plan to keep disruption to a minimum, the trustees would like to apologise in advance for any inconvenience experienced by users of the hall during this time. This replacement work is very necessary and they are sure that the end result will be well worth it.

The grant for projects such as this from the FCC Communities Foundation plays an important part in improving the quality of life in villages like ours and the trustees are very grateful to the Foundation for their support.

Goring Gap News urgently needs more volunteers

Goring Gap News

Too many communities have lost their local newsletter and are the poorer for it. We need to keep our GGN going – and we can, but only if more people come forward to share the effort.

Not all volunteer jobs can offer challenge, a monthly sense of achievement and a useful addition to your CV. Helping to produce *GGN* offers all this.

Each month the team produces the popular, attractive and free informative magazine which makes a vital contribution to our local, vibrant community. The skills we develop are valuable and transferable – so can YOU help?

We need:

- Help with the management of the business.
- Help with the monthly production – technical skills not essential but you will need organisational skills.
- A Business Editor – to keep in touch with Gap businesses and develop articles and information about those businesses.
- Someone to help maintain and support our production systems as and when necessary. You will need to be familiar with computer systems and be willing to learn.
- An advisor with knowledge of publishing/InDesign systems to help make *GGN* production more efficient.

Further info

Please contact ggnchair@gmail.com for more info and to offer help. Page 3 of October *GGN* has more detail about how you can help us keep the *GGN* alive and be part of its future development.

What’s On – for the month of November 2026

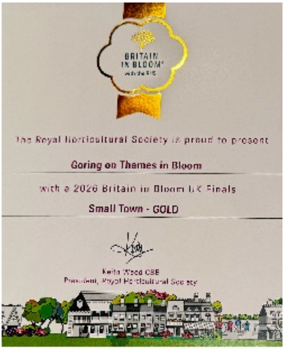
Upcoming EVENTS on the genie
CALENDAR & PLANNER

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 1 Nov	2pm ‘Come and Sing Evensong’
Wed 4 Nov	-12noon Goring Gap News copy deadline -7.30pm Goring Village Green Fingers: *Indoor plants* by Gemma Haigh
Thurs 5 Nov	8-11.30am Mobile post office outside Westholme Stores. Weekly. Also Tuesdays 1.30-4pm
Sat 7 Nov	7.30pm Reading Bach Choir at St Thomas’
Sun 8 Nov	10.50am Act of Remembrance by the memorials
Wed 11 Nov	7.30pm Goring by Cleeve WI: *An evening of Remembrances*
Sat 14 Nov	-7pm The Oxford Waits in Goring Village Hall -7pm Langtree Symphonia Concert, Wallingford
Monday 16 Nov	2.30pm Goring Gap Local History Society: *Black Wantage: True or false?*
Wed 18 Nov	7.30pm Author talk: Cressida Downing: *The Ravens*
Wed 18 – 21 Nov	7.30pm *The Lady Vanishes*, Goring Gap Players
Thurs 19 Nov	-10.30-2pm Pick-a-Flick: *Evil Under the Sun* (1982) -7.45pm The Roy Bailey Big Band Jazz Night
Sat 21 Nov	10am Cholsey Repair Café
Tues 24 Nov	11am and 2pm The Arts Society, Goring: *Banksy: Fraud or Genius?* Guests £5
Thurs 26 Nov	-10.30am-12noon Goring Gap u3a talk: *A Victorian Christmas* -*Genie* News copy deadline -7.45pm The Roy Bailey Big Band Jazz Night
Fri 27 Nov	7.30pm Goring Unplugged

Goring-on-Thames awarded GOLD again



BRITAIN IN BLOOM with the RHS

The Royal Horticultural Society is proud to present

Goring on Thames in Bloom

with a 2026 Britain in Bloom UK Finals

Small Town - GOLD

Keith Weed CBE
President, Royal Horticultural Society

At the National RHS Britain in Bloom Awards in Rochdale on 20 October, Goring-on-Thames in Bloom were awarded a Gold medal. This is the highest standard in the three competition categories of Horticultural Achievement, Environmental Responsibility and Community Participation.

Since the group first entered Goring into the competition in the Jubilee year of 2012 it has won 11 Gold awards and numerous other individual awards, culminating in winning the Best Small Town in the UK in 2019.

Chair, Stephanie Bridle, said: "We are delighted to have maintained the high standard of our entry this year as it was under challenging conditions. Since we started on this journey, the Bloom team with its many volunteers has transformed the village in many ways and hopefully we have given a lot of pleasure to the community and strengthened Goring's environmental resilience for future generations. The judges commented that, "It was wonderful to meet all the people involved and to hear how they feel about their town and their commitment to making Goring-on-Thames a wonderful place to live and visit.

Lybbe's Almshouses – An Appeal

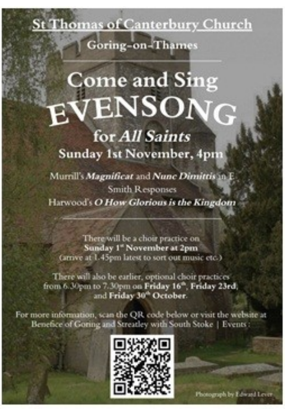
Many people will be unaware of the two historic Lybbe's Almshouses located in Goring next to St Thomas' Church. The next time you walk through the Churchyard if you look towards the war memorial these delightful cottages can be seen behind the wall.

The 300 year old cottages are managed and maintained as a Charity by a group of Trustees. To ensure the continuity of this valuable Charity to provide affordable homes to residents of Goring and the surrounding area, the Lybbe's Trustees are seeking additional Trustees to join them.

These voluntary positions are not onerous in that only two meetings are held a year. These roles would suit any community spirited individuals. For more information please contact The Clerk to the Trustees Chris Tassell, on 07788 560498 or chris@ctassell.co.uk.

The cottages have recently undergone refurbishment and an article about the project from the Almshouse Association website can be found at https://www.almshouses.org/news/lybbes-almshouses-tackling-damp-and-securing-homes-for-the-future/.

'Come and Sing' Evensong for All Saints



St Thomas of Canterbury Church
Goring-on-Thames

Come and Sing
EVENSONG
for *All Saints*
Sunday 1st November, 4pm

Murrill's ***Magnificat*** and ***Nunc Dimittis*** in E
Smith Responses
Harwood's ***O How Glorious is the Kingdom***

There will be a choir practice on
Sunday 1st November at 2pm
(arrive at 1.45pm latest to sort out music etc.)

There will also be earlier, optional choir practices from 6.30pm to 7.30pm on **Friday 16th**, **Friday 23rd**, and **Friday 30th October**.

For more information, scan the QR code below or visit the website at Benefice of Goring and Streatley with South Stoke | Events :

Photograph by Edward Lever

St Thomas' Church, Goring at 4pm on Sunday 1 November, with a practice for singers in the choir at 2pm prompt (please arrive by 1.45pm).

Music: Murrill's *Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis in E*; Smith Responses; Harwood's *O How Glorious is the Kingdom.*

For more information, see https://www.thomandmary.org.uk/Groups/359659/Events.aspx.

Boathouse Dental Surgery Relocation Update – October 2026

Boathouse
01491 872 394

They write:

We're delighted to let you know that The Boathouse Dental Surgery will be moving to its new premises in **November 2026**, and we will confirm the date as soon as we know.

From Monday 2 November 2026, we will begin to move our equipment and, in the meantime, we will be running one surgery only from our existing premises until we have approval from the CQC that Thames Court is fully operational.

If you already have an appointment booked around the time of the move, we will contact you directly if any changes are necessary. We do understand that the move will cause some disruption to your appointments, but we will do our very best to keep this to an absolute minimum.

While our address is changing, our name, our team and our commitment to providing you with excellent dental care will remain the same.

Our new surgery will provide a comfortable and welcoming environment, and we're very excited to begin this next chapter and welcome you to our new home.

We would like to thank all our patients for your continued support and loyalty. We look forward to seeing you at Thames Court later in the year!

SODC District Councillor Update to Parish Councils, October 2026, from Maggie Filipova-Rivers

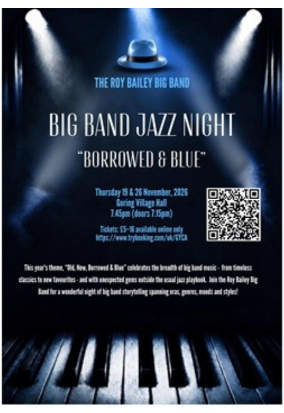
COUNCIL NEWS
South Oxfordshire District Council

This update includes information on the following:

Nature and Climate Action Fund: £1000 available
Councillor Community Grants: Applications Open
Capital Grants and Community Investment
Community Led Affordable Housing
Joint Local Plans: Progress and Next Steps
Neighbourhood Planning and Local Influence
Planning Changes and Housing Land Supply: New Figures Published
Helping Residents Stay Active and Well
Supporting Local Community Safety
More Flexibility for Community Events

Please click **HERE** to read more.

The Roy Bailey Big Band winter gigs – "Borrowed and Blue"



THE ROY BAILEY BIG BAND

BIG BAND JAZZ NIGHT
"BORROWED & BLUE"

Thursday 19 & 26 November, 2026
Goring Village Hall
7.45pm (doors 7.15pm)

Tickets: £5-16 available online only
https://www.trybooking.com/uk/GYCA

This year's theme, "Old, New, Borrowed & Blue" celebrates the breadth of big band music - from timeless classics to new favourites - and with unexpected gems outside the usual jazz playbook. Join the Roy Bailey Big Band for a wonderful night of big band storytelling spanning eras, genres, moods and styles!

Thursdays 19 and 26 November 2026, 7.45pm-10pm, Goring Village Hall

Do join them for a great evening of big band music! This year's theme, "Old, New, Borrowed & Blue" celebrates the breadth of big band music – from timeless classics to new favourites – and with unexpected gems outside the usual jazz playbook. Due to high demand, they run the same programme on two nights, thereby giving you a choice of "fresh and edgy" or "poised and polished"… They hope to see you there – more information and tickets in the link below.

Doors at 7:15pm. First set 7.45 pm.
Tickets £5-16 (price includes all ticket fees)

More information and tickets available from:
https://www.trybooking.com/uk/GYCA

Sign up here to receive news and updates from the Roy Bailey Big Band

Planning Alerts – Service Update

Current local
Planning Applications

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

Council
MEETINGS & MINUTES
Streatley
PARISH COUNCIL
GORING-ON-THAMES
PARISH COUNCIL
southstokeparish council

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.

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.

Copyright © 2026 GENIE Community Group, All rights reserved.