

Goring Gap News

EVENTS, PEOPLE, BUSINESS, ARTS AND SPORT IN GORING AND STREATLEY

Northern lights over Goring



Aurora borealis over Elvendon Road during the night of 10 May

Photo: Nick Parker

Spot the road sign



The work on the water meters has been finished. Why don't they take the signs away? Photo: Adrian Turner

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All concerned in the publication and delivery of
GGN are unpaid volunteers.

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News and articles of local interest, original poems, drawings and photographs are invited for the Editor's consideration. Articles and digital picture files (at as high quality as possible - at least 1.5MB for colour) can be sent to goringgapnews@gmail.com or submitted on memory stick, along with any handwritten or typed material, via the post box for *Goring Gap News* in Inspiration, 1 The Arcade, Goring, RG8 9AY, by courtesy of the proprietors. See website for more details.

Deadline for next issue: 12 June

Distribution

We aim to deliver copies of the GGN to all households in Goring and Streatley.

June 2024 weekend of 29/30

July 2024 weekend of 27/28

August 2024 weekend of 24/25

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Extra copies can be purchased from

Inspiration and Westholme Store.

Postal subscriptions – UK £48, Europe £80,

Australia & NZ £110, Rest of world £100.

GGN is published by The Goring Gap News Ltd (Registered in England & Wales No 3118490) whose registered office is at Goring & District Community Centre, Station Road, Goring, Reading RG8 9HB. The company is wholly owned by the Goring Gap News Association.

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Printed by Albry Print Ltd, Wallingford

GRAPEVINE

Could you lead GGN production into the future?

The *Goring Gap News* production team is sorry to be losing its production manager, Jim Emerson, who is retiring from GGN after nine years. As a result, we are in need of a volunteer who is able to lead the magazine forward, both as regards the physical magazine and the website.

Could it be you? Offers of help with part of the role would also be welcome.

There are two key parts to this role:

1. Create the design and layout of GGN each month with the Editor and production team. You would have the satisfaction of doing something which is greatly valued in Goring and Streatley, and which supports the local community, charities and local businesses. The magazine is built using 'In Design'. If you have experience of this it would be useful but can be easily learnt.

2. Maintain and develop the GGN production system. Good IT confidence and ideally skills are needed.

The system is mainly used over the four days a month during which each issue is produced, so maintenance and development of hardware, software and the website and possible future use of social media can take place when convenient at any other time.

If you think you may have the skills (given appropriate training in how we currently operate) we should love to hear from you. We will be pleased to discuss what we have in mind and answer questions you may have. Please contact us on goringgapnews@gmail.com or call Gill, the Editor, for an introductory chat.

Expected road closures

Traffic regulation notices have been issued about the following road closures:

The B4009 between Goring and Mongewell will have road closures and no waiting restrictions during resurfacing work from 5am on 31 May until 6pm on 3 June. Blue light and resident access will be possible. Work will be carried out 5am-6pm daily.

Grove Road, which runs between the B4009 and Icknield Road, just south of South Stoke, will be closed 10-21 June for gas main laying.

Woodcote Road, from South Stoke towards Woodcote, will be closed on 25 July 9.30am-5.30pm and the diversion will be via Cleeve.

As we all know, this may be subject to change. Current information should be available on <https://uk.one.network>

Better pavements to come?

A month or so ago men from Virgin Media were seen around Goring with distance measuring wheels, planning for the company's forthcoming fibre rollout. They said that they would not necessarily put the street cabinets exactly where the submitted plans had shown, rather they looked at the immediate area and adjusted positions pragmatically (they said it was obvious that someone 'sitting in an office in Poland' wouldn't always chose the best spot!). So rather than putting a cabinet in the middle of a green patch on a corner they would likely put it back near a fence and certainly not in front of a street name sign. They also said that if a resident suggested a good, workable, spot for a cabinet they might well use it. This was very encouraging. Obviously in the end the installers will have to judge the exact locations of their above ground cabinets, but it sounds like the people who actually do the job are reasonable and pragmatic. Let's hope so.

A couple of weeks later two different men in high viz vests were seen with distance measuring hand wheels making white paint marks on sections of pavement on Cleeve Road and no doubt other roads as they were still nearby some two hours later. They said they worked for OCC and were marking areas for pavement resurfacing. The possibility that Virgin Media might come and dig up just after the resurfacing was raised, but they said OCC checked that such organisations were not about to dig things up, so it should not be a problem.

Let's hope the resurfaced pavements will stay looking good for a long while.

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A year of repairs in Streatley

Immediately following the successful prevention of Streatley school flooding, this time last year we were preparing for the start of the Wallingford Road and The Coombe road closures due to the need for the gas pipes to be sleeved. Just as the work was about to start, an emergency closure of High Street was necessary due to a gas pipe leak, which reinforced the need for the sleeving. Unfortunately, this April saw High Street closed again due to a further gas leak and we have to brace ourselves for pipe sleeving along the length of High Street at some unknown point, to prevent further occurrences.

In March, the High Street parking line painting was revised and from random observation, there has been improvement, inasmuch as downhill drivers can see further down the hill before pulling out to pass parked cars. Options are limited regarding this issue but the Council welcomes feedback and constructive suggestions.

Wallingford Road towards Moulsoford was repaired and resurfaced and at long last, during the Easter period, the traffic light control loops have been replaced and drain pipes repaired under The Bull crossroads, such that we have a new surface with no potholes or manhole fountains after heavy rains.

Thames Water contributed with roadworks near The Coombe, at the top of Streatley Hill and at Aldworth.

With thanks to John Boler, the footpath alongside The Bull is now being upgraded – without need for a road closure.

More recently, SSEN has been clearing foliage from equipment and cables, notably after the winter storms caused a degree of damage and loss of supply. Residents of Rectory Road suffered road disruption as the adjacent works were performed and in April there was the need to replace a line of poles and cable from The Holies to Green Hill, south of Reading Road. With access provided by the National Trust, to avoid cutting an access through a SSSI, it was still sad to see the vegetation removed to allow passage of a 14T excavator transporting and installing replacement poles. The opportunity was taken to remove a number of dead ash trees and other fallen foliage.

No work had been performed along this stretch of cable since the lines were installed, in what was open countryside, during the 1950s. To be realistic, the access was a necessity and indeed, the opening should actually have been maintained open from the outset for maintenance purposes. SSEN have full rights as such in order to provide security of supply. On this occasion, as the line repairs were classed as an emergency, there was no notice of commencement provided in advance and as this is common land, there were no owners to inform. We are now engaging with SSEN to see whether further tidying up can be conducted and expect the ground vegetation to return by next summer. See P15, 17 and 44.

Gradually, Streatley utilities are brought back into working order. Let's presume they will now serve us well into the future. When notified, SPC will publish advance notice but we recommend viewing of the map at <https://uk.one.network> for upcoming disruptions.

Colin Smith
Chairman, Streatley Parish Council

Sean Absolom's 30-year service award



Goring firefighter Sean Absolom was among the fifteen firefighters who were presented with His Majesty The King's long service and good conduct medals in a special ceremony. Sean has served as a firefighter for an amazing 30 years.

Oxfordshire's Vice-Lord Lieutenant, Brian Buchan, attended the prestigious event at Blenheim Palace, on Tuesday 30 April, to present, by royal warrant, the long service medals, each of the firefighters having completed at least 20 years' service.

Rob MacDougall, Oxfordshire County Council's Fire and Rescue Service's Chief Fire Officer and Director of Community Safety, said: 'Our annual awards ceremony reflects both the fire and rescue service and Oxfordshire communities' appreciation and gratitude to frontline officers, as well as to support teams, fire cadets and volunteers for their devotion to duty over many years.'

'This year is the 50th anniversary of Oxfordshire County Council's Fire and Rescue Service. A proud moment for every one of us.'

Sean Absolom joined Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service as an on-call firefighter in 1994 and initially served in Wallingford, where he grew up, and Kidlington. He switched to Goring fire station in Icknield Road four years later after accepting a regular job in the village as a carpenter. He was promoted to leading firefighter soon afterwards and was made Watch Manager in 2004.

Congratulations to Sean on his award and a huge thank you for all his many years of service to our community.

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St Thomas' Church Organ Scholarship

The Organ Scholarship is part of The St Thomas' Organ Rebuild and Musical Outreach Project. During 2022 the organ was dismantled, mended and cleaned and was completely rebuilt by early 2023. Now we have started the second phase of the project – musical outreach. An important element of this outreach is encouraging a new generation of young organists. As part of this aim, we are delighted to announce that we are introducing a St Thomas' Organ Scholarship. The scholarship will be for 12 months and will normally run from 1 September to 31 August the following year.

The Organ Scholarship will be tailored to the successful applicant. The main purpose of the scholarship is to develop skills in organ playing. However, depending on the individual, there will also be opportunities to develop skills in choir accompanying and directing.

Depending on the ability and experience of the post holder, duties are likely to include:

- playing the organ at least once a month for part of a service (eg hymns, voluntaries, accompanying the anthem)
- attending choir practices on a Friday evening (6.30-8.15pm)
- accompanying or directing some of the items at choir practices

Organ Scholars will gain benefits, such as:

- access to our wonderful rebuilt organ for playing and practising
- one hour per month of free organ tuition with our Director of Music (additional paid lessons by arrangement)
- regular opportunities to perform
- possible hands-on experience of accompanying and directing the choir

Remuneration

As well as receiving one hour per month free organ tuition, the Organ Scholar will be awarded a grant of £300+ depending on experience and level of commitment. The grant can be used as the scholar wishes, for example to subsidise additional lesson costs or to buy music.

How to apply

Applications are now open for the scholarship running from 1 September 2024 to 31 August 2025. The closing date for applications is 30 June 2024. We welcome applications from any talented pianists or organists (Grade 5+ level).

Anyone interested in applying for the Organ Scholarship will be offered a consultation lesson and interview by arrangement sometime in July 2024.

To apply or to find out more, contact officeofgsandss@yahoo.com

Elizabeth Parkinson



Photo: Elizabeth Parkinson

Goring Community Jazz on 12 April

Tadley Ewing Peake Dameron (1917-1965) was a pianist, composer and arranger, whose best-known work embodied and projected the spirit of bebop in the 1940s and 1950s. Dameron's compositions like *Hothouse*, *Lady Bird*, and *Good Bait*, inspired immortal solos from the likes of Charlie Parker, Dizzy Gillespie, Fats Navarro and John Coltrane. He even spent some time in London, writing for the Ted Heath band.

The New Jazz Sextet was not exactly new, since it comprised the house trio plus three familiar visitors, Andy Townsend (trumpet and flugelhorn), Ewen Baird (tenor sax) and Ross Law (trombone). Each number began with a crisply executed ensemble statement of the theme. An exception was the ballad *If You Could See Me Now*, a moving flugelhorn solo from Townsend. In the emblematic *Lady Bird*, Ewen Baird took off, urged on by Mike Goff's exciting drum breaks in the final chorus. In the mid-tempo *Tadd's Delight*, which can be heard on Miles Davis' *Round Midnight* album, Law's trombone was confident, relaxed and swinging, and Townsend gave his best solo of the evening. *Soultrane*, a ballad on the chords of *My Old Flame*, was a showcase for Ewen Baird, in inventive mode. The Latin-flavoured *Con Alma* had a nicely harmonised chorus, and in *The Night has a Thousand Eyes* (one of the few non-Dameron selections) the horns were subtly driven on by Mike Goff's cymbals, and Nick Hill turned in a great piano solo. Even if it wasn't quite Minton's on 52nd Street, this was a fitting tribute to a great but underrated jazz figure.

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MUSIC and ARTS continued

Charley's Aunt

Goring Gap Players' spring production, *Charley's Aunt*, ran for four nights, Wednesday to Saturday 17-20 April in Goring Village Hall. I attended on the Friday night, when a packed house was treated to a slick, fast-paced performance of this much-loved farce.

Written by Brandon Thomas and first performed in 1892, *Charley's Aunt* tells the story of Lord Fancourt Babberley, whose friends at St Olde's College, Oxford University, Jack and Charley, persuade him to impersonate Charley's aunt. The

complications of the plot include the arrival of the real aunt and the attempts of an elderly fortune hunter to woo the bogus aunt. We enter a pre-First World War world quite different from our own, when young girls require a chaperone and cannot be married without consent.

Phil Davies as Jack and Michael Fielding as Charley got the evening off to a cracking start, feverishly assisting each other with letters they are composing to the girls, inviting them to lunch to meet Charley's aunt, Donna Lucia, with a view to declaring their love. Jack and Charley displayed a firmness of purpose and a debonair arrogance, giving way to anxiety as the twists in the plot take them out of their depth. Laith Bahrani embraced his dual roles as Lord Fancourt Babberley and an improvised Donna Lucia with great gusto. In both parts he displayed expressive physicality to hilarious effect. John South was marvellous as Brasset, the much put upon butler, who was calmly competent and deferential.

Caro Armstrong as Kitty Verdun and Helen McCutcheon as Amy Spettigue enjoyed excellent chemistry on stage. Helen McCutcheon's assured performance was all the more remarkable for the fact that she joined the cast at a late stage of rehearsals. Caro Armstrong's coquettish and vivacious Kitty played strongly against her suitor's anguished inability to come straight out with a proposal of marriage.

Michael Saunders gave us a delightfully energetic and charming Sir Francis Chesney, Jack's father. To amend the family's dire finances, he nobly pursues Lord Fancourt's less than attractive Donna Lucia and proposes marriage. When 'she' refuses, Sir Francis' relief is comically palpable. Daniel Evans' forthright and ill-tempered Stephen Spettigue had fewer scruples. His sudden change of tone to softly spoken hospitableness on encountering the wealthy Donna Lucia, still Lord Fancourt in disguise, provided another highly comic moment. In a fast, well-choreographed chase scene, Spettigue vigorously pursues the fake Donna Lucia with the intention of cornering her and proposing marriage.

Rita Butler as the real Donna Lucia and Emma Rees as her adopted niece, Ela Delahay, brought a calmness and graceful good humour to the stage, which starkly contrasted with the frenetic proceedings we were witnessing. In conversation, Rita Butler's Donna Lucia teasingly shows how little Lord Fancourt knows about the woman he was impersonating. Emma Rees's Ela finds herself strangely drawn to the fake Donna Lucia and, not realising his true identity as the man she had fallen in love with in Monte Carlo, she pours her heart out to him.

Much credit goes to Helen McCutcheon and Rita Butler for their assured direction of the show, and the whole cast are to be congratulated on the portrayal of their characters. The entertainment was enhanced by the high production values we have come to expect from the Goring Gap Players. The costumes, set design and minimal furniture and properties and the sound and lighting all contributed to the period feel. For me, the pretty bower in the centre of the stage for the garden scenes was symptomatic of the thought and care which had been taken in planning the show.

The audience left the venue smiling and discussing which bits of the action they had enjoyed most in another excellent Goring Gap Players production.

John Turner



You must all come to dine with me this evening ... I will take no denial

Photo: Jean Betteridge



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MUSIC and ARTS continued

Wallingford Art Club Exhibition 25-26 May

Wallingford & District Art Club's Exhibition is on 25 May 10am-5pm and 26 May 10am-4pm at Centre 70 (venue 419) in central Wallingford.

Families and visitors to Wallingford will find plenty to delight in among our members' still-life, landscape, animal, flora, figurative and abstract artwork. As well as the paintings, there are limited edition prints and cards for sale, all produced by 25 club members who range in ability from commercial artists to skilled amateurs.

Leading artists:

- Mark Wood specialises in colourful local landmarks, still lifes and birds. He will be painting live throughout the weekend.
- Gavin Peacock specialises in whimsical storytelling in oil or acrylic. He is the SAA's Amateur Artist of the Year.
- Carole Kettle's paintings capture people at play or rest and evoke a sunny outlook.
- Geoff Johnson specialises in flowers and landscapes to capture the changing seasons.

The show is a destination on Wallingford Town Council's Art Walk, a new initiative to promote the visual arts in the locality (maps available from the information office, library and participating venues). Art club members are also supporting an artistic showcase in the Town Hall, taking place over the same weekend, and curated by local artist Jason Atomic.

Centre 70 (Artweeks venue 419) is just off the Kinecroft and in easy walking distance of both Waitrose and Goldsmith Lane car parks. The venue is large, light and airy – giving ample scope for unpressured browsing of some delightful art.

Visit www.wallingfordartclub.org.uk for more details of our activities, including tutored classes, artist demo evenings, all-day workshops and sketch days.

Nicola Webb



The Clumps by Mark Wood

The Soundbar – an exciting new open mic music night in Streatley

You might have heard about The Soundbar on the grapevine (or seen the brightly-coloured posters around the villages). The Soundbar is a monthly open mic music night at The Bull Inn, Streatley. You might hear musicians from local bands such as The Mysteries, Cheap Suits, or Heather Jayne & the Red Shoes testing out solo material, next to young talent or people giving it a go for the first time – the friendly vibe means everyone is welcome. The Soundbar was set up by Nick and Simon, who say they were particularly keen to create a welcoming performance space for younger musicians. (Many of the performers at the recent Goring Unplugged 'young talent' night were discovered at The Soundbar.)

The Soundbar is the second Wednesday of every month. So the next one is 12 June, and will be a *Gap Festival fringe special*. If you want to perform, sign up at 7.30pm - music is 8-10pm.

To find out more choose from Instagram: [@the_soundbar_music](https://www.instagram.com/the_soundbar_music), Facebook group: 'thesoundbar' or drop an email to hellosoundbar@gmail.com and they'll put you on the mailing list for reminders.

Nick Parker



Local musician Scott playing at the Soundbar in April Photo Nick Parker



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Fringe live music events throughout the GAP Festival

Alongside all of the spectacular music events you'll find detailed in the GAP Festival programme, there are also 'fringe' music events popping up in local venues.

From jazz and folk, to acoustic and pop music. Individual performers to full-pieced bands. Local groups to semi-professional musicians. These free non-ticketed performances will give you the chance to sit back and soak up the Festival atmosphere with a drink in hand.

Here's the line up (subject to change):

Sunday 9 June – live music from 2.30pm

The Catherine Wheel, Goring

Sit back and take in the sounds of singer songwriter Steve Daniels, guitar and accordion duo BoxSet, edgy singer Fern, and vintage trio Harlequin amongst others.

2.30pm David and Nikki – a couple who make sweet music

3pm Steve Daniels – original singer songwriter

3.30pm Boxset – high-energy guitar and accordion duo

4pm Fern – edgy London-based singer

4.30pm Last Minute Returns – Streatley guitar/mandolin duo sing heritage folk

5pm Greg Mayston's Folk, Blues & Americana – country, folk and blues

5.30pm Murphy's Law – local trio with good time songs

6pm Harlequin – vintage trio with origins in the Bristol folk scene

Wednesday 12 June – Soundbar open mic night 7.30-10pm

The Bull, Streatley

The Soundbar is Goring and Streatley's thriving monthly open mic night. You'll hear professional musicians testing out new material, brilliant young talent (rising star George Parker is a regular), as well as local performers and first-timers. Every night is different, surprising and loads of fun. Want to perform? Get there at 7pm to sign up. Music 7.30-10pm.

Friday 14 June, live music from 4pm

The Miller of Mansfield, Goring

Enjoy numbers from blues and ragtime singer songwriter Jim Reynolds, family band Furlong, folk trio Rural Broadband, and more, for a session that will be sure to get your toes tapping.

4pm Furlong – Oxfordshire based family band

4.30pm Vagabond – talented and chilled male/female duo

5pm Jim Reynolds – blues, ragtime and old-fashioned ballads

5.30pm Harlequin – vintage trio with origins in the Bristol folk scene

6pm Alan Pettifer – experienced singer songwriter and storyteller

6.30pm Scampy – acoustic harmony duo

7pm Rural Broadband – harmonious folk trio

8pm The Mysteries – enduringly popular local band

Not forgetting the special Goring Unplugged at The GAP Festival in Goring Village Hall on Thursday 13 June, at 8pm.

Come and enjoy the best of Goring Unplugged – an acoustic event that has been bringing together professional performers, local musicians and first-timers of all ages for a friendly evening of unplugged music for over 20 years.

Featuring young singer and guitarist Leah, multi-award-winning Americana-Folk duo Tomorrow Bird and enduringly popular upbeat three-piece band The Mysteries, who return to The GAP Festival following their supporting performance with The Lightyears back in 2022. This is a ticketed event. Tickets available at www.thegapfestival.org/events and a bar will be available.

The full line ups for each date and detailed timings can be found on the GAP Festival website.



Murphys' Law



George Parker



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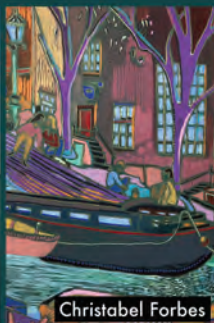
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

who accepts no responsibility for views expressed

The Editor welcomes your letters – normally no more than 350 words please – but reserves the right to edit them

Streatley woodland damage

Dear Editor—I am writing to express my concerns about the recent damage inflicted upon the wooded slopes adjacent to the Reading Road, Streatley and the Holies during ongoing maintenance work conducted by Scottish and Southern Electric Network. As a member of the community who values our natural environment, I believe it is important to bring attention to this matter and encourage dialogue on how we can prevent similar incidents in the future.

During the maintenance work on overhead powerlines in the woods, there was considerable damage to the surrounding trees and undergrowth. While I understand the necessity of such maintenance, the extent of the damage seemed excessive and unnecessary. Many residents who frequent the woodland for recreational purposes have also expressed their dismay at the disruption caused by the heavy machinery and the access route that has been cut into the hillside.

The extent of the damage is not fully apparent from the Goring side of the river but photos (see P48 and P17) show a track 500m long and 5m wide cut into the hillside. A large number of trees and bushes have been removed. Some were suffering from ash dieback and have been removed but a large number were perfectly healthy.

It is my hope that by raising awareness of this issue, we can encourage the utility company to assure us that appropriate remedial work will take place to repair damage caused, although I do not see how this will be possible (as of writing all contractors have left the site without any apparent remedial action). Additionally, I would implore them to adopt more environmentally sensitive practices in their future projects. Our woodland is a valuable asset to our community, providing not only a habitat for wildlife but also a space for residents to enjoy in this unique area we live in.

I encourage the utility company and local councils to engage in open dialogue with the community to address our concerns and work together to ensure that any future maintenance work is conducted in a manner that minimises harm to our natural environment.

Richard McNeill

Editor's note: See also P5, P17 and P48

Taekwon-do champion Kinley fights on

Dear Editor—This is an update on Kinley Price, who featured in the March edition of *GGN*.

Following his success in Newcastle in February, Kinley competed at the Warrior Open in London on 10 March, where again he won his weight division. But the day ended badly as he picked up an injury, which at the time seemed insignificant but as the day was ending showed its true colours. The colours were that of a damaged muscle in the hip due to a low kick.

Through others sharing their knowledge about themselves receiving such an injury, we knew this was going to be weeks and not days in the makings of a full recovery.

A week after the competition in London, Kinley had received the news that he was selected to compete in Holland.

The work began to try and be fit for the Holland Cup on 1 June.

We had great help from his trainer and physio (Mr Whitlock) and although he could not train specifically for his sport, he did put in the extra hours in the gym. And boy did that nearly backfire. In London he was competing in the under 60kg division and only just made the cut at 59.9kg, so we entered him for the under 65kg in Holland, but the extra gym work and good eating he had to miss a division and now is in the +65kg division weighing an impressive 69kg.

So by the time of publication, Kinley will be days from travelling to Holland, and there he will again compete for PUMA England.

James Price

NHS not funding ear wax removal

Dear Editor—I am writing to support the Royal National Institute for Deaf People's (RNID) ear wax campaign and share my personal experience of struggling to get ear wax removal.

I am now almost deaf and after being 'rejected' by the NHS I found that the nearest private micro-suction private treatment 'retailer' was on a six week delay time. This NHS 'rejection' of my request for treatment is fully understandable because as the hospital explained to me, 'We do not treat medical problems that are not funded.'

It is estimated that around 2.3 million people a year in the UK require their ear wax to be removed by a professional. Ear wax build up can cause painful and distressing symptoms – such as hearing loss, tinnitus and debilitating earache – yet RNID's new report highlights the horrifying reality that far too many people are unable to access this essential service on the NHS.

RNID's report shows that only 18 out of 40 Integrated Care Boards, the commissioners of most NHS services, are meeting public health guidelines by providing ear wax removal services for everyone in their area. Fifteen provide a limited service, or use restrictive criteria, and seven don't provide any service at all. This means thousands of people like me face avoidable hearing loss, tinnitus and earache because they can't get ear wax removed on the NHS.

It is unacceptable that people are facing long-delays and costly private appointments because local Integrated Care Boards are not delivering. You can find out more about RNID's ear wax campaign by visiting www.rnid.org.uk/earwax

RNID need your support. As someone who experiences ear wax build up, I am joining RNID in calling on the Department of Health and Social Care for an urgent review of ear wax removal services for people who are failing to get the care they need on the NHS. The problem is certainly clear – people who need ear wax removal must be able to access this service on the NHS, regardless of where they live.

Rex Harrison



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Scar across green hills by Streatley



Broken electricity cable due to the poles to the left falling.

Photo: Jim Emerson



Looking along the scar from below the gate from the Holies

Photo: Richard McNeill

Gap residents may have been puzzled by a new white/brown scar along the hillside to the left of Streatley as seen, for example, crossing the railway bridge at Goring towards Streatley - see the aerial photos on P48.

Some weeks ago on a Thursday evening a storm brought down a tree on the Holies that, in a domino effect, took down electricity cables (see photo above left) and at least two poles were damaged.

SSEN arranged for the emergency work to be done to repair the network which meant removing some trees and putting in a track from the NT Land at the Holies. The work also covered removing any dead trees or parts of trees that could fall onto the wires in the future. They employed a professional tree organisation and arranged to chip smaller branches but leave all on site as a natural habitat. On the second day of the tree work SSEN inspected the whole stretch and were surprised to discover that the poles had been put in in the late 1950s and had never been replaced – so the work became a larger scale project and the plans for access for a 3-ton digger changed to a 14-ton digger and access with larger equipment meant a wider track and more trees had to come out – hence the scar on the landscape. All poles and cable have now been replaced.

Whilst it is unsightly, especially from Goring, this was necessary work. (Note: Utility companies have an automatic right to enter land or property to maintain supply – in this case the electricity act of 1989 applies.) The Streatley Parish Clerk has been in consultation with the work groups and there are a couple of things to be made good where the track crosses the footpath. A Streatley Parish Councillor had previously looked at the area behind Hill Gardens and along the back of the houses along the Reading Road and estimated 200 dead ash trees were in danger of falling down – so the scale of work that has been done has at least improved the safety, if not the look, of the area. SSEN also cleared two fallen trees from footpath STRE 26/3, one of which was waist height.

It is not the right time to plant greenery to cover the scar but hopefully this can be considered once time passes for the woodland to recover – but SSEN will be keen to avoid any close to the cabling – such as those that caused the problem in the first place.

West Berkshire District Councillor Laura Coyle said, ‘Many local people have understandably expressed concern to me about the scar on the landscape created by the works and I am liaising with the National Trust and SSEN to try and ensure that the woodland is restored as quickly as possible.’

Jim Emerson

Editor's note: See article from the Chair of Streatley Parish Council P5 and a letter P15 and photos on P48

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Library volunteers from Goring invited to celebrate ten years of volunteering



Goring Library volunteers at Magdalen College

It is now ten years since volunteers began to work in the library, replacing paid library assistants. The first volunteers started in Goring Library in August 2014.

The Oxfordshire Library Service recognises the vital importance of this work, without which the library would not be able to remain open. To mark this anniversary volunteers from all the libraries in Oxfordshire were invited to a celebration at Magdalen College, Oxford.

Five people attended from Goring, most of whom had been volunteering for the full ten years. During the morning various Library Service staff spoke about how volunteering was set up in the Oxfordshire libraries and how they have developed and changed over the decade to become very successful enterprises. A lively question and answer session followed, covering all aspects of the management and funding of the libraries.

After lunch there was a tour of the Magdalen College Longwall Library and guests were able to explore the beautiful grounds and gardens, together with the Hall and Chapel. It was a memorable and most interesting day and an opportunity to meet and exchange ideas with volunteers from other libraries.

Mary Carr

Volunteer Coordinator for Friends of Goring Library

Home Library Service

Would you like to borrow library books but are unable to visit the library any reason? The Home Library Service is run from Oxfordshire County Council and serves 900 customers throughout the county. A similar service is available in West Berkshire.

How it works (Oxfordshire)

Contact us to discuss the kind of Books, Large Print/Regular Print, DVDs, Audio Books on CD, Music CD or DVD's, that you like to read or enjoy. We can then arrange for a library volunteer to deliver these to you in your home. Our volunteers are DBS checked, wear an identification badge and provide a helpful and friendly service. Whenever possible, we try and arrange for the same volunteer to visit you each time. Your library

materials will be delivered and collected every three weeks. The Home Library Service is free of charge, and there is no charge for requests or late returns.

How to register

Oxfordshire: To register for this service or for further information call your local library or telephone the Home Library Service on **01865 810259** or email homelibraryservice@oxfordshire.gov.uk

West Berkshire: Contact the At Home service: **01635 519827** or email library@westberks.gov.uk www.westberks.gov.uk/libraries

Charity black tie dinner and dance

As a local Goring resident, once I heard about the incredible work the Hub – Bridging the Gap is doing to support adults in need in our community, I felt compelled to lend a helping hand.

Founded by ex-nurse, Melanie Meads, and managed by Niki Chessher,



Liz Cohen

who works tirelessly with a small, dedicated team of volunteers to respond to a growing demand of adults needing support in our community (whether it is 'bridging the gap' in local services to access government benefits and housing, or providing weekly free yoga sessions, or chess for the elderly and their (grand)children, or offering tea, biscuits and companionship at 10.30am each day), the Hub provides a wholly inclusive, welcoming safe space and so much more.

Therefore, to raise awareness and generate income for this fantastic charity in order to continue to support those who rely on it, I've organised a dinner dance at the Coppa Club in the Swan at Streatley on 13 September at 7pm. Kicking off with a glass of champagne beside the river and then heading inside for a three-course dinner and dancing to the soulful tunes of Paul Roberts – formally the lead singer of the Stranglers – as he entertains us with his brilliant tribute to David Bowie! This will be followed by a live DJ and disco. Tickets cost £100 per person with 100% of net proceeds going directly to the Hub.

It's been wonderful to see how quickly people come together to support others – Coppa Club Streatley, Emma Curtis Flowers, Supreme Events Disco and more than 70 local friends have already pledged their support to make this a great evening. Please join us!

To request tickets please contact lisajustcohen@gmail.com

Lisa Cohen
Fundraising Volunteer
www.thehubbtg.org.uk

Have you got your GAP Festival tickets yet?

From 7-16 June the biennial cultural GAP Festival in Goring and Streatley will welcome Festival goers to its incredible programme of over 50 exciting events.

Some events still have a few last tickets remaining. So if you haven't got yours yet, or you are looking for a last minute opportunity to try something new, visit www.thegapfestival.org/events to book yourself in and join this cultural extravaganza! As a registered charity, every ticket purchased goes back into bringing culture to the community.

As of going to print, events still with final tickets available include...

World-class mandolin player and wit Simon Mayor and Friends in a relaxed evening of magical music and humorous anecdotes on Friday 7 June.

The spectacular red-carpet premiere of the shortlisted Children's Film Festival short films, alongside a screening of a short family movie on Sunday 9 June. Read more on opposite page.

The stunning sounds of flagship female voice ensemble Papagena: Love, Legends and Lullabies on the evening of Sunday 9 June.

For crime drama and true crime lovers, An Audience with Author Helen Saxton, with actors, will reenact key events and discuss the controversial story of Amanda Knox in the murder of Meredith Kercher, on Monday 10 June.

Outdoor family theatre in an idyllic setting on the banks of the Thames, with a performance of *The Adventures of Doctor Dolittle* on Thursday 13 June.

A one-hour family show of songs about science, maths and the wonders of the world around us with Helen Arney: A Voice of an Angle – as seen on BBC2, Channel 4 and Discovery – on Friday 14 June.

Step back in time, put on some 40s/50s glamour (or not!), sit back and tap your feet to the doo-wop harmonies of the Ding Dong Daddios on Saturday 15 June.

Enjoy a Glyndebourne-style opera experience, with GAP Opera: *The Marriage of Figaro*. Picnics, Pimms, fizz and top class opera in three performances Friday 14 – Sunday 16 June.



Author Helen Saxton

Photo Jamie Ledwith



Ding Dong Daddios

A whole host of free non-ticketed events too!

Alongside the amazing variety of ticketed events, there are also a host of free activities and performances taking place, no ticket required – just drop in.

On Friday 7 June, preschoolers can bring their parents to join a morning of games, free play and interactive story with a Teddy Bear's Picnic.

Join the cosmic fun of Saturday 8 June and experience all that Space Day has to offer, including blasting off a water rocket, space crafting, scale-model solar

system treasure hunt and the chance to track the International Space Station live with local satellite company OrbAstro.

Visit Goring's Rectory Garden on Sunday 9 June to join the Festival's contribution to the national Great Big Green Week – The Great Green Food Day. Discover creative ways to let eating and food play a vital part in helping tackle climate change, reduce waste and protect nature. Full line up detailed on P31.

Saturday 15 June hosts the return of the popular Festival Market Day. Enjoy browsing crafts, arts and skills from the local community, alongside face painting, refreshments and live music.

Meet and Greet the Owls at Withymead Nature Reserve on Saturday 15 June and learn all about owls, how they hunt, owl conservation and have a go at pellet dissection.

For art enthusiasts, there is a celebration of community art with a weekend long Art Exhibition on Saturday 15 – Sunday 16 June.

A chance to have a go at bell ringing with the Goring and Streatley ringers, followed by a lunchtime Festival Picnic Concert with Goring and Streatley concert band on the final day of the Festival – Sunday 16 June. Plus a host of 'fringe'

music events, popping up in local venues where you can sit back and soak up the Festival atmosphere with a drink in hand. Find out more on P13.

Find out all you need to know to make the most of this year's Festival during the ten-day period, and book your last-minute tickets by visiting www.thegapfestival.org

Julia Horne

The Children's Film Festival shortlist is announced

I am delighted to share the finalist short films made by young filmmakers across Oxfordshire and Berkshire for the GAP Children's Film Festival competition, part of the GAP Festival.

This year's competition received a total of 38 entries – three times more than our first event in 2022. From this, 21 films have been shortlisted as finalists across three categories by a group of industry professionals.

Entries were received for Best Short Film Under 12s and Best Short Film for Under 18s from residents of Oxfordshire and Berkshire. Submissions for worldwide entries were not sufficient, so the judges closed that category. Previous child winners from 2022 will judge finalist international films, as part of our Children's Jury Award.

The finalist's film titles and directors names are below

Best Short Film Under 12s

My Dream, Maya Kino-Wylam; *The Escape Room*, Indi Jhita and Amber Parsley; *Day Gone Wrong*, Tabitha Bromley; *My Butterflies*, Willow Daniels; *The Portal*, Teddy Crosse, Daniel Woolfall, Sam Appleton; *Drained Away*, Juliet Asselin-Miller; *Small*, Reuben Fay; *Oh Crumbs!*, Eadie Tye.

Best Short Film Under 18s

Bad Day at Work, Louis Benyon; *The Lost Avenger*, Jed Beaumont; *Mrs Bun the Baker*, Freddie Johnson; *Twelve and a Half Percent*, Jared Hall; *Cloned in Captivity*, Teddy Stolt-Neilsen; *Online Safety*, Max Varvill; *Bear*, Scarlett Olivier; *Occult*, Tori van Heerden; *Sobering*, Poppy Tulloch; *Where's Mia*, Thomas Willett.



Photo: Bernard Novell



Children's Film Festival 2022

The creativity of this year's entries has been phenomenal. The judges have been blown away by the genius and technical execution of films submitted.

The majority of our Under 12s are first time filmmakers and, with the help of the free workshops that we hosted locally, it has been great to see them kick-start their journey into filmmaking.

Come and see the screening of the finalist films and celebrate the announcement of the winners on Sunday 9 June at our red-carpet premiere event as part of the main GAP Festival.

Hotdogs, popcorn, soft drinks will be available, and following the prize giving, the audience can also enjoy a short family movie.

Book your tickets now at www.thegapfestival.org

Gary McDonagh

The John Barleycorn

Sad news, the John Barleycorn pub in Manor Road failed to attract new tenants after the sudden departure of the last one, so it has now been put up for sale by Brakspears brewery. Reputedly one of Goring's oldest hostelrys, nothing much is known about its history and there are few documents to reveal its secrets.

Origins



A very small building appears in the right location on an early map of Goring of 1727, and the Oxfordshire Historic Environment Record states that what is now the pub dates from 1700-1732. It seems likely that it started out as a timber-framed cottage with brick walls which were roughcast at some point. It was single storey with attics lit by dormer windows in the (now) slate roof. The property is Heritage England Listed Grade II. Some internal original timberwork can still be seen.

The earliest record of it as a beerhouse is in 1838 when Goring Brewery, located in the High Street where Thames Court is now, was put up for sale by its owner, John Curtis. Included in the sale was a *message used as*

a retail beerhouse, with a shop and garden, in the occupation of Mr Joseph Dafters, harnessmaker, at a low rent of £9. Joseph Dafters was born in Goring in 1811 and in a village dependent on horses for farming and transport, his skills with leather and rope would have kept him busy. Selling beer would have been a sideline, perhaps carried out by his wife.

Goring Brewery was probably set up around 1830 when the Beerhouse Act was passed by parliament which liberalized the regulations concerning brewing and the sale of beer. The act enabled any rate-payer to brew and sell beer on payment of a licence costing two guineas. The intention was to increase competition between brewers, lower prices, and encourage people to drink beer instead of strong spirits. It resulted in the opening of thousands of new public houses and breweries throughout the country.

There are no surviving licensing records to give proof, but it seems pretty likely that the Barleycorn was licensed to sell beer soon after 1830, although the building is over a century older.

When did the pub get its name? This is first recorded in 1844 in the conveyance document dated 22 March when Curtis sold the Goring brewery estate to the Pittman family. It may well have been known as this all along, but there is no other evidence.

What's in a name?

There aren't too many pubs called the John Barleycorn in England, but the name has its origins in Tudor times in a folk song of probable Scottish origin. This tells the tale of John Barleycorn who is the personification of barley and the alcoholic beverages made from it – beer and whisky. In the song he suffers indignities, attacks and death that correspond to the stages of barley cultivation such as reaping and malting. John Barleycorn became a synonym for beer and the pubs with this name were simply places where you could quench your thirst with a foaming pint.

What was the pub like?

There are several descriptions of the property and it hasn't changed a great deal over the years. A drinker in Victorian times would feel quite at home were they to visit the pub today. They would still have come in through the little lobby from the street and turn either right or left to enter their chosen bar.

In 1887 when the Goring Brewery estate was again put up for auction, the John Barleycorn is described as *a beerhouse containing tap room, kitchen, pantry, 2 parlours, passage and cellar; and 6 bedrooms; yard in the rear with wood-house, privy and urinal.*

In 1940 when the brewery was once more for sale, the auction catalogue entry says, *a licensed beerhouse situate at the corner of Station and Manor Roads containing, six bedrooms, tap room with grate and settle, sitting room with register grate and cupboards, beer cellar with fireplace, kitchen with range and copper, pantry and store cupboard. Yard with timber and galvanized open shed with concrete floor, two earth closets.*

Brakspears of Henley bought Goring Brewery and all its pubs in this sale and made some improvements to the Barleycorn, such as installing indoor toilets, but fast forward to 2023 and the description in their letting brochure is

Trade: 3 bar areas, bar billiard area, restaurant, WCs, kitchen, stores, cellar, garden, meeting room, 3 en-suite letting rooms.
Private: One bedroomed flat plus potential to convert a further two rooms and bathroom to additional private accommodation.

The pub still retains its old-world charm.

Mine hosts

Joseph Dafters was the first landlord of the pub and he lived there until his death, at the age of 63, in 1874, so he was resident for nearly 45 years.

Nothing much is known about him. He married twice but seems to have had no children to inherit his harness-making business.

The next landlord was John Rush, Streatley born, who was also a professional fisherman and lived there with his wife and teenage daughter. Charles May was also a licensee in the 1880s as the old photograph of the Barleycorn here shows.

He was followed around 1886 by Henry Honey, who described himself in the 1891 census as publican and general labourer, so the pub alone did not provide enough income for his wife Fanny and five children. The rent in 1887 (payable monthly) was £20 a year. By this time the building has acquired a brick-built extension at the rear, the site of 4 bedrooms. The Goring building boom that started in the 1880s offered new opportunities for the Barleycorn. Rooms for itinerant workers and tradesmen were in short supply in the village. By 1891 there were four lodgers in residence at the pub, providing a welcome supplement to the family's income. One was a plasterer, another was a carpenter.

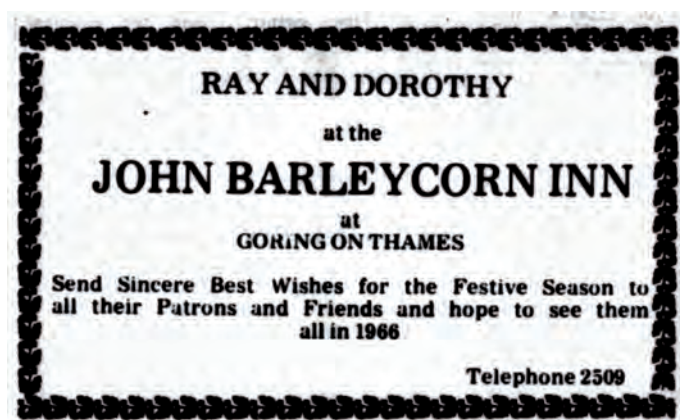
In 1907 Henry Honey died but his wife Fanny, who may well have run the pub anyway, carried on as the licensee, helped by her single daughter Christina. In January 1914 Fanny was in trouble with the law for selling beer and tobacco without a licence and was fined 1s and had to pay £10 10s 3d in unpaid duty. At the age of 82 in 1921 Fanny was still behind the bar. After she died, daughter Christina took over the Barleycorn, marrying a local gardener, David Chamberlain in 1922, who became joint licensee.

The Chamberlains were there until around 1935 and a man called Philip Breed is listed as licensee in trade directories in 1935 and 1939, but no information about him can be found.

In 1940 Goring Brewery was put on the market following the death of Mrs Gundry, the owner, and the sale catalogue states that the Barleycorn was let to Mr Caleb Champion at £2 a month, tenant paying rates. This rent is not much different from the £20 a year paid by Henry Honey in 1887. Caleb Champion and his wife Yvonne seem to have taken the pub as a retirement project as they came from Surrey where he had been the director of a drapery company. It's not clear how long they stayed but by 1950 Caleb's brother Raymond had become the landlord, running the pub with the help of his married sister Dorothy Dunhill.

Ray appears to have been a popular landlord and in the 1950s changed the Barleycorn from a beerhouse to a traditional public house selling meals. He was very keen on bar billiards and the pub had its own team which competed in local leagues. Ray and Dorothy ran the pub for a long time and sadly Ray died in the Barleycorn on Christmas Day 1975, having presided over the bar and restaurant for 25 years.

It's not clear who followed him, but Tony Fincham appears in newspaper adverts as landlord in the 1980s and 1990s, offering all the benefits of a traditional 'local'. The pub has changed hands many times in recent years and readers may well be able to supply details of the different tenants.



Last orders

The Barleycorn seems to have struggled to provide a living for its tenants for much of its existence; initially as a beerhouse which supplemented the income of a landlord with a full-time occupation elsewhere. Rising rents, cost of living increases and the limitations of being a tied house have all played their part since then. In recent years several tenants have tried to make a go of it but the COVID-19 pandemic sounded the final death knell for this hostelry, as it has done for many others in the UK. The drinks sales figures given in Brakspear's 2023 rental prospectus say it all:

In 2018 draught beer sales (36 gallon units) were 163; in 2022 these were down to 78. Bottled beer sales were down even more and spirit sales (litres) in 2018 were 141 compared with 82 in 2022. 1858 litres of wine were sold in 2018, but only 763 in 2022.

In 2023 Brakspear's basic rent was £32,000 a year (plus other outgoings). Compare this with the £9 paid annually by the first landlord, Joseph Dafters, which is equivalent to c.£700 today! Of course we are not comparing like with like, but the licensees of today have a really tough job to make a living.

This is just an outline of the John Barleycorn's history, but if you have stories to tell about the pub, or can fill in more of the detail, please get in touch via goringgaphistory@gmail.com

Janet Hurst

Goring Gap Local History Society



More Bloom on Goring & Streatley station

One of the highlights of the work done by Goring-on-Thames in Bloom is to be seen on Platform 4 of our railway station. As well as the large, colourful and attractive bed of shrubs, grasses and perennial planting which brighten the otherwise utilitarian Network Rail hard landscaping, regular users of the station may have noticed three splendid new wooden planters, adding to the green environment. The previous painted troughs, that had been donated by Murphy's Construction Company after the transformation of the station superstructure in the mid noughties, had reached the end of their useful lives. Rather than abandoning the idea of having containers to cheer up the unplanted areas of our station, Goring-on-Thames in Bloom decided to replace them with larger, more robust wooden planters which would be more sustainable. To this end, we commissioned Mike Dyer, a local carpenter, to replicate the containers which were installed in 2017 to adorn Platform 3.

The new containers have now been filled with compost and planted up by Bloomers Jacqueline Wilkins and Marilyn Chambers. With the help of other volunteers, they will look after the containers as they mature throughout the year.

In June 2022 Myrna Anderson, one of Bloom's earliest volunteers and guiding lights, sadly died. Myrna, who was the wife of Goring Head Teacher, Michael Anderson, and a retired teacher herself, was already working as a volunteer at the Primary School when she joined the Bloom team. She used her gentle communication skills and love of nature to encourage the children to plant bulbs and flowers, vegetables and soft fruit. The school even made its own compost. Her environmental work was recognised when, thanks to Myrna's hard work, the school's newly created wild life garden won an award and was visited by non-other than Chris Packham.

Myrna also worked as a volunteer in the Village's Environmental Group. She took a great interest in the flora and fauna that abounded in St Thomas' churchyard and never failed to impress the RHS Britain in Bloom judges with her extensive knowledge and dedication to caring for the local environment.

Goring-on-Thames in Bloom has welcomed the opportunity to recognise everything Myrna did for our village and a plaque expressing our gratitude can now be seen proudly displayed on the middle of the three new planters.



The memorial planter on the station



Myrna Anderson with a Bloom award

Stephanie Bridle
Chair, Goring-on-Thames in Bloom

News from Withymead

Firstly, and most importantly, we would like to thank GGN for their recent very generous grant towards tree surgery. We have two ailing willows – one either side of the waterfront deck which are resting on the surface of the water. They will need a tractor to pull them out. To remain open to visitors throughout the summer months we plan to schedule this work for September.

Improvements to access

We are delighted to announce that we have been awarded substantial funding by the 'Mend the Gap' project

www.mendthegap.uk which will help us to improve access for all throughout the Reserve and to create a new entrance area on the Bridleway. The vision of the Mend the Gap programme is that the outstanding landscape that links the Chilterns and the North Wessex Downs will be enhanced and enriched for

wildlife, residents and visitors, helping to heal and soften the scars left by electrification of the Great Western main line.

The funding will allow us to replace half the length of the current boardwalk. This phase of work will give wheelchair access to an enlarged viewing platform adjacent to the kingfisher hide. In addition, the visitor entrance will see a new gate and fencing along with a small welcome shelter.

Our warden will, at last, be able to pack his trusty gazebo away and our entrance gate will be more welcoming. For the first time, visitors with limited mobility will be able to access the iconic wetland area of the reserve.

We plan for work on the replacement boardwalk to start in September after the end of our visitor open season and to be completed by early 2025.

Alongside the improvements to infrastructure, we will be encouraging community involvement over the coming two years by running events for Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) audiences plus a volunteer first aid training course.

This is a big project for us at Withymead and one in which both Wardens and Trustees are excited to get started and to open up Withymead to you all.

A new website

During winter and early spring some further significant work went on behind the scenes to improve our online presence by creating a new website. The address www.withymead.org remains the same. We hope it is clear and easy to navigate,

you can quickly find the information you need, dig a little deeper into our history, and that it's easier to see how you can get involved. We are particularly grateful to all the contributors who worked so hard to help tell our story: local photographers who so willingly shared their fantastic images, our local historians who continue to bring our history to life, our volunteer writers, and our designers, Unstuck Design. We'd also like to thank the funders whose generous support made this project happen: Dorothy Holmes Trust, Gatehampton Trust, GGN, Lucy Woodward Trust, SODC Councillor Community Grants Scheme, and several donors who wish to remain anonymous.

Jenny Hedge



Cracked willow by the waterfront deck



Current fen boardwalk

Become a trustee and help protect our environment

If you love and value our countryside and the nature all around us and feel you would like to help protect and enhance it for future generations, you may be interested in this article.

The Goring Gap Environmental Organisation is seeking several more people to become trustees of our registered charity with the mission to protect, conserve and enhance our local environment. GGEO has made a good start in this endeavour and is now looking for additional trustees to join us and help to continue our work. We usually meet once a month for up to two hours to discuss the management of the charity, its finances and oversee its activities and occasionally at other times if there is a need.

Examples of our current projects include testing the quality of our river water and the level of pollution present which adversely impacts on the flora and fauna, including us humans who use the river for recreation. Other projects are aimed at increasing biodiversity by improving habitats and also helping reduce waste and greenhouse gas emissions.

By the end of this month our GGEO citizen science volunteers will have taken twelve river water samples of a total of 80 planned from different locations between South Stoke and Lower Basildon using a strict aseptic protocol. These are analysed by a UKAS-accredited microbiology laboratory to measure the levels of the two main faecal bacteria found in sewage-polluted rivers, *Escherichia coli* and intestinal enterococci. In due course we will publish a detailed report of this study which will also be seen by Thames Water, the EA and Defra.

Our Goring Repair Cafe project has been successfully established in Goring Village Hall for a year now with help from twenty or so skilled repairers and ten other volunteer helpers. Over 60% of all the broken items brought in to each event have been repaired and saved from landfill. With these and several other projects



Goring Repair Cafe

underway, including controlling invasive species, creating new habitats and a developing a community orchard, there is plenty of work to do and more help is needed.

If you would like more information about GGEO you can visit the www.ggeo-online and if you would like to have a chat about becoming a trustee, please get in touch via ronbridle@btinternet.com or calling 07789 871620. Thank you.

The Trustees
Goring Gap Environmental Organisation

Would you like to work with a charity to help improve rural communities in Berkshire?

Local charity Connecting Communities in Berkshire (CCB) is seeking new Trustees to help us continue our work of enhancing, empowering, and strengthening rural communities in Berkshire.

We have over 50 years' experience and history in community development work and are an active member of the Action with Communities in Rural England (ACRE) Network. Our vision is for all communities in Berkshire to be strong, resilient, sustainable and able to control of their own futures. CCB's purpose is to inspire action at a community level that improves people's quality of life. Visit www.ccbberks.org.uk to see our current project delivery.

We are seeking enthusiastic individuals that have an interest in working to improve community life in Berkshire to join our Board of Trustees. This is a non-remunerated post however out of pocket expenses such as travel are payable.

We are particularly interested to hear from people who have a background in human resources, experience of working on a parish/town council, or someone who is a great communicator and loves attending events/networking on behalf of our charity.

Your skills and experience will be used to making a lasting difference in our local communities. If you are retired or due to other circumstances have more time to dedicate, then this could be the perfect role for you as we are a small team and do rely on volunteer support to help complete key task and finish jobs. Alternatively, if you have a busy working life then there are only a handful of, mostly evening, meetings to attend a year in which you could attend sharing expertise and provide guidance and helping to make important decisions.

Please email admin@ccberks.org.uk if interested or to find out more about us and our current projects please visit www.ccbberks.org.uk



Volunteer rinsing water collection vessel

Photo: Ron Bridle

Village Greenfingers – we grow stuff!

Village Greenfingers is the gardening club for Goring, Streatley and the surrounding area. We're an enthusiastic and friendly bunch of gardeners, with gardens of all sorts and sizes, and would love to welcome you to our meetings.

We offer ten meetings a year covering a wide range of gardening topics. In 2024 our speakers have talked to us about everything from gardening for wildlife, to pampering dahlias for the Chelsea Flower Show, and even unusual containers for vegetables – growing lettuces in a half-drainpipe anyone?!

We have plants and gardening goodies for sale at every meeting (and held a very successful bulb sale in the autumn) and there are always people on hand to ask for advice if you have a gardening query.

We also hold a monthly competition and often the loveliest entries come from people with the smallest gardens – size is definitely not everything.

There are prizes to be won too. This year, The Challenge Cup was won by Rosemary Brooks for the highest score in the monthly competitions, The RHS Recognition Award was given to Derek Leary for his unwavering support of the club since its inception 30+ years ago and Jacqueline Wilkins was awarded the Banksian Medal for her outstanding contributions to the gardening life of the village.



Rosie, Derek and Jacqueline with their prizes at the May meeting



Some of this year's competition - Snow White (a vase of snowdrops)

hands-on advice for everything about growing great roses, a former head chef of fine dining restaurants in London who will hold a workshop on new ways with veg (including making your own kimchi or sauerkraut) and the Head Gardener of the beautiful 10-acre Malverleys Garden near Newbury. We'll also have a stall at the Big Green Day on 9 June in the Rectory Garden (or in the village hall if the heavens open!) so do drop by if you'd like to find out more about what we do.

We have posters around the village about our meetings and are busy building our new website www.villagegreenfingers.uk Until the website is live, if you'd like any more info please email me saraboorman1@icloud.com and I'll do my best to answer any queries.

But better still come and enjoy a meeting – whether you've been gardening for years or feel that you don't know a trowel from a turnip, you'll be very welcome. We meet at Storton Lodge, Icknield Road, aka The Scout Hut, on the first Wednesday of the month (except January and August) 7.30-9.30pm. Annual membership is £25 and the visitors fee is £5 and includes refreshments. Come and grow stuff with us!



And worth waiting for (spring flowers from your garden)

Sara Boorman

All photos by Sara Boorman

Celebrating George Michael's legacy in June

Once again fans from around the world will be coming to Goring to celebrate what would have been George's 61st birthday. During the weekend of 21-23 June several events will be held, with the aim of raising money for charities, including the Hub. The Catherine Wheel hosts 'Spinning the Wheel 6', featuring its very own special George Michael tribute artist, James Bermingham, playing for the sixth year. The Miller of Mansfield also has a weekend of tribute musical performances booked, featuring Steve Mitchell. Steve will also be performing at George's one-time home, Mill Cottage, with Wham's original bass guitarist, during a wonderful event hosted by the Hub, 'Musical moments in the garden'. At Goring Village Hall on the Saturday there is a sold-out charity event, 'GM61 Christmas in June', with tribute act John Francis, in a hall transformed into a winter wonderland, plus a disco and a pizza van outside. The George Michael Legacy Project will be back hosting a river cruise on Friday and a sale in front of Barbara's shop on Saturday as in previous years. On Friday evening, again at Mill Cottage, 'A Midsummer Night's Jazz' will be a champagne and canapé event with live music from The White Kites.

This weekend remembering George's legacy of music and charity will once again demonstrate the wonderful collaboration of effort that has helped to raise so much money since 2017.

Goring Primary School summer fête

The sun has finally made an appearance, which means summer is just around the corner. This year, Goring Primary School's Summer Fete is on Saturday 22 June 12-3pm.

- We had a record-breaking year last year, with over £6k raised for the PTFA. These funds are vital to the school, so they can purchase much needed equipment to help further the children's education.

We couldn't do any of this without the help and support of the local community, so a massive thank you to everyone.

The raffle, this year, has some amazing prizes, that have been very generously donated by local businesses. There will be food from the BBQ, the cupcake café, the school's kitchen garden, and the PimmZ tent will also be returning.

We will have games galore, crafts to make, face painting, teddy tombola, lucky cups, and may more.

The summer fête is also a great opportunity for prospective parents to see the school, walk around the grounds, meet other parents, and even some of the teachers.

We really hope you can join us this year and help raise vital funds for Goring Primary School. 2023 was a huge success, and we hope, with the help of the community, we can make this year even better.

Summer Fête Committee
PTFA Goring Primary School



Preparing for the fête in 2023

Citizens Advice: fighting negative budgets with positive help

The rising cost of living and debt hardship in recent years is a familiar story, but very recently the issue has become alarming enough to reach the condition of a national emergency. This is why Citizens Advice has brought some entirely new vocabulary into play, declaring in recent publicity that five million people in this country (one in 15 households) are living on 'negative budgets' – in other words, they have nothing in the bank and are in permanent debt. Another 2.3 million people only manage to stay out of debt by cutting back even on living essentials. They know that once their bank accounts dip below zero it takes an extraordinary effort to climb out of the pit.

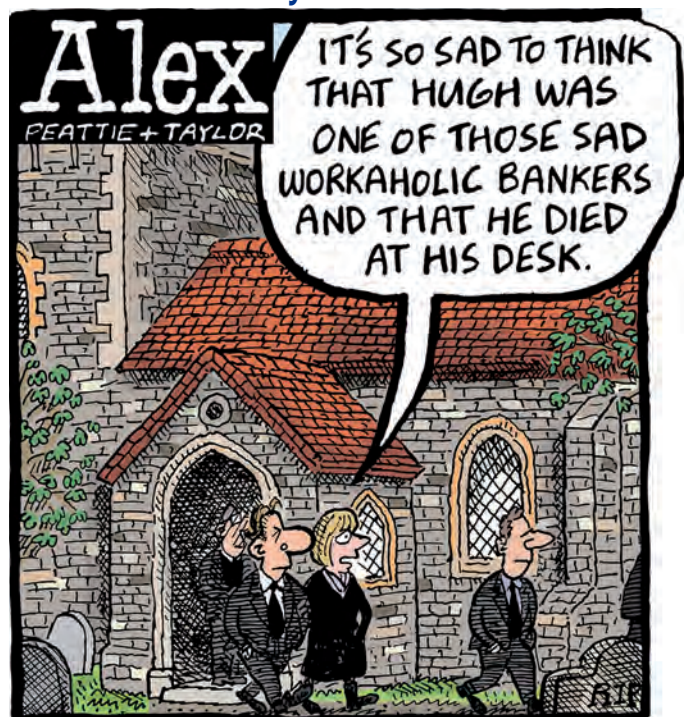
Citizens Advice says that the biggest cause of negative budgets is rising housing costs, but there are other factors such as higher energy bills, and salaries and benefits that cannot keep pace with inflation.

If you are in debt yourself and locked in battle against creditors and the cost of necessities, remember that Citizens Advice Oxfordshire South and Vale is there to help you. Our experienced advisers can work through your income and spending and set a personal budget that meets your basic needs while also setting a plan for paying off your debts in the long term. We can find out whether you are entitled to benefits, or enhanced benefits, and discuss whether you could do something to increase your earnings. We can point you in the direction of money helper websites or 'breathing space' schemes. So don't despair, but get in touch with us right away. Call our local Adviceline on [0808 278 7907](tel:08082787907) or our national Debt Helpline on [0800 240 4420](tel:08002404420). And have a look at www.citizensadvice.org.uk

Free, confidential and impartial advice is always available.

Darius Halpern
Citizens Advice Oxfordshire South & Vale

'Alex' in Streatley



Readers of *The Daily Telegraph* may be familiar with the adventures of a maverick banker featured in the cartoon strip 'Alex', which appears on the business pages. Earlier this month Alex attended the funeral of a workaholic ex-colleague in a picturesque English country church. Eagle-eyed Goring and Streatley residents may have noticed that the church in the cartoon bore a distinct resemblance to St Mary's, Streatley.

This was no coincidence. Russell Taylor, the writer of the cartoon, grew up in Streatley. When he needed to find a picture reference for his artist colleague Charles Peattie to base the cartoon church on, he couldn't resist taking a few snaps of St Mary's. It's a building that Russell has always loved and he can occasionally be found playing the piano there.

If you're not a *Telegraph* reader you can see the cartoon online at www.alexcartoon.com

Local D-day memories sought

Commemorating the 80th Anniversary of D-Day, 6 June 1944, the county's military museum in Woodstock, Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum, will expand on its permanent displays with a special exhibition aiming to tell even more local people's stories of the build-up, D-Day invasion, and Normandy campaign that followed.

In the run up to the Anniversary, the museum is keen to hear from local people with their own memories or family stories of D-Day, soldier or civilian. With Oxfordshire airbases utilised for all kinds of war work, and soldiers billeted across the county while training or preparing for Operation Overlord, many will have childhood memories of 1944, seeing planes flying overhead or speaking to some of the allied forces. Others will have stories of local people serving in other regiments or branches of the armed forces – the museum urges anyone to get in touch with more information.

Visitors to the museum can already sit inside a recreated section of an Airspeed Horsa Glider, the type used to carry men of the Oxfordshire & Buckinghamshire Light Infantry to Normandy. One of the museum's permanent interactive displays, audio headsets allow you to hear Major John Howard recount his memories of the historic Pegasus Bridge operation, while cases display a range of weapons and equipment used by these soldiers and the opposition they faced.

This will be expanded with a new temporary D-Day 80th Anniversary exhibition – opening on 18 May and running to 24 September 2024 – which will provide a wide range of other county stories and perspectives, such as the contribution of many RAF stations and other sites across Oxfordshire.

On Thursday 30 May 2024 the museum will also host Ingram Murray for a talk on the Sappers in the Gliders – the contingent of Royal Engineers who accompanied the soldiers of the Oxfordshire regiment on board the gliders bound for Pegasus Bridge. Proceeds from tickets will support the museum and ABF: The Soldiers' Charity. Ingram Murray, formerly an officer in the Royal Engineers' Independent Parachute Engineers squadron, is the father of Al Murray, known for his Pub Landlord stand-up persona and Second World War podcast, history festivals, and books.

Those with an Oxfordshire D-Day story they would like to share with the museum can get in touch using:

www.sofo.org.uk/oxfordshire-d-day-stories / 01993 810 210 / museumdirector@sofo.org.uk



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Come along to The Great Green Food Day

This year's biennial cultural GAP Festival in Goring and Streatley coincides with national Great Big Green Week. As part of this, on Sunday 9 June, 11am-2pm, in Rectory Garden, The Great Green Food Day will be the Festival's local contribution to this national celebration of community action to tackle climate change and protect nature.

Focused on showcasing local food and sustainable living, this free event, supported by Oxfordshire County Council, will host a wonderful variety of local and sustainably-produced food and drink.

Come along and browse more than 20 stalls focusing on climate change and in particular food production and consumption. From locally grown plants, fresh vegetables, nature and gardening books, to recycling and composting plus Wallingford Food Bank and Waste2Taste.

Enjoy live music, WaterAid's *Humphrey the Camel*, swift bird box-making, river pollution presentations and the infamous potato growing 'weigh-in' competition in which four participating local schools will be hoping to take the prize!

Local storyteller Jonathan Clifton, will perform his own creation of poems and songs in an enticing space for children named 'Poo Corner'. With the local library hosting a 'Poo' quiz and 'Plop' Trumps amongst other poo-themed activities and crafts to entertain children of all ages.

All those planning to bring along a miniature eco-garden for the competition, in one of the three categories (primary, secondary and everyone else!) should drop them off 11-11.30am. The winners will be announced at 1.30pm. Details for entry are on the GAP Festival website.

The day will also host a Climate Change Question Time session (free, but ticketed), which will see lively debate amongst a prestigious panel of local experts. Looking at how we can all do our bit to help the environment with what we eat, how we travel and how we garden. Tickets available on the GAP Festival website.

Bring a picnic or pick up your lunch from the delicious collection of food and drink stalls. These will include local artisan bread and cheese purveyors, freshly-cooked salads and sandwiches from popular Goring café Pierreponts' pop-up, freshly-made soup, homemade cakes from the local WI and an eco-barbecue.

The Miller of Mansfield will also be running a rustic bar, sponsored by local brewer Renegade, selling local beer, lager, cider and soft drinks, all in eco cans.

Line-up for the day:

9.30-10.30am: St Thomas' Church, Goring – 'Bread of Heaven' – A special service for our three villages to celebrate the wonders of creation with live jazz.

11am: Great Green Food Day opens in Rectory Gardens with Andy Taylor live music. School's potato competition weigh-in and prize-giving.

11.15am-11.45am: Children's entertainer, Jonathan Clifton performs songs and poems in 'Poo Corner'.

12pm-1pm: Ask the Experts 'Climate Change' Question Time followed by live jazz in the marquee.

1.30pm: Winner of Mini Gardens Competition announced in 'Poo Corner'.

2pm: Event closes



Wateraid's *Humphrey the camel*

Photo: Ron Bridle

Annabel Christie

Your next Goring Repair Café – Saturday 1 June

The next opportunity to get your broken products fixed for free is on Saturday 1 June in Goring Village Hall between 10am-12.30pm.

As usual, we should have our normal range of about 15 or so repairers on duty, each with their own tools and work space, who will attempt to fix everything you can carry in on the day. Other volunteer organisers will also be there to ensure the event runs smoothly.

Bikes and buggies, garden tools and machinery, electrical and other household appliances, computers and mobile phones, guitars and ukuleles, small items of furniture, decorative boxes, clothes and textiles and toys and dolls are just some of the items repaired in previous events. We also have a sharpening service.

Organised by the Goring Gap Environmental Organisation (GGEO), the primary purpose is to reduce waste and the need to buy replacement products. We have fixed, on average, over 60% of all the items brought in, so there's a good chance we can repair your broken product and avoid it going to landfill unnecessarily. There is no charge for the repairs, but we welcome any voluntary donations to cover the cost of the hall hire and other expenses to ensure we can continue this service well into the future.

If you don't have anything to be fixed at the moment you are very welcome to just pop in to have a look at what goes on and have a coffee and a slice of the delicious homemade cakes on offer at Café Bellême.

For more information about the service and the answers to frequently asked questions, visit www.goringrepaircafe.info

Ron Bridle

GGEO Coordinator

GeoffreyCole^{CO}

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LIVES REMEMBERED

Duncan Bryant 24.10.1933 – 7.2.2024

Norma Bryant 14.9.1937 – 20.2.2024

Duncan and Norma Bryant met in 1956 at the tennis club in Walton-on-Thames where they were both keen members. They married in 1958, and in 1960, shortly after the birth of their first daughter, they moved overseas for Duncan to take up a three year posting at NASA's Goodard Flight Centre in Greenbelt Maryland, Washington DC, after gaining his PhD in physics.

A few years later they moved back to the UK to be nearer family, and lived in Surrey with their two daughters before moving to Goring in July 1981, following Duncan's move to the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory in Chilton.

Duncan travelled extensively with his career and was an acknowledged authority in the field of experimental space research, in particular space plasma physics and the aurora borealis. In 1998 he published a book on the subject and even quite recently he was busily engaged in updates and new ideas.

Both Duncan and Norma loved walking, and took many enjoyable holidays in their beloved Lake District. Nearer home, they took great pleasure from the many and varied walks around Goring and Streatley and particularly loved Elvendon woods when the bluebells were in bloom.

Both took an active part in village life. For many years, Norma was involved in the annual collections for the Poppy Appeal and Christian Aid, and volunteered at St Thomas' Church for a great range of activities from church cleaning and the annual Christingle service to the 'hot cross fun' event for local children. A highlight each year was the Christmas Fair for which Norma always contributed her delicious homemade soup.

Duncan was a talented pianist and was Musical Director for a number of local productions including *Oliver!* and *The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe*. He also played for a local choir and even at one or two birthday parties and the Dylan Thomas evening. Duncan also very much enjoyed being a member of several U3A groups and had a talent for making complex mathematical and scientific subjects accessible to all.

Duncan and Norma were married for nearly 66 years, and had the distinction of receiving a congratulatory card from the late Queen for their 60th anniversary and from the new King and Queen for their 65th anniversary last year.

Towards the end of their lives, both Duncan and Norma were cared for at The Grange in Goring, and the family is very grateful for the wonderful care that they received there.

Norma and Duncan died in February, aged 86 and 90 respectively, within two weeks of one another. They will be very much missed by their two daughters, four grandchildren and all their family and friends.



News from the WI

In March it was the 62nd birthday of our group, which is also our annual meeting. The Committee were elected, and Katrina Cooper was voted in as President. It was a 'big' birthday for one member, Margaret King, who supplied celebratory scones.

March also saw the Annual Meeting of Oxfordshire Federation, where we were pleased to find keen needlewoman Krys Knox had won the Gold Medal for her embroidery. Members also helped with the Goring Litterpick.

Our new year started in April, when a representative of Oxfordshire Trading Standards told us about scams that might affect us. After going through the problems of the internet, postal come-ons, telephone befriending and cold callers, we went home in a heightened state of awareness, and nerves!

A Bring & Buy sale was run for Associated Country Women of the World, and a walk along the Thames ending at the Chocolate Cafe added to amount raised.

Our new programme includes a variety of speakers with subjects varying from Roman food, nature photography and Hearing Dogs, a demonstration of origami Christmas cards, social occasions and outings. We meet at Storton Lodge on the second Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm, and new members are always welcome.

Chris Cox



Litter pick

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Streatley Parish Council – 08/04/24

The principal points of the most recent Parish Council meeting are summarised below. The official minutes can be seen at www.streatley.org via the Clerk at clerk@streatley.org

Planning applications

- 24/00597/HOUSE – Kiddington House, Aldworth Road. Covered vehicle store, kennel, and machine store. SPC do not object to this.

Decisions by WBC

- 23/01992/HOUSE Upcot, Wantage Road. Proposed additional first and second floor with rooms in attic space over existing ground floor, additional ground floor extension, providing main entrance to new proposal and the relocation of existing garage, with store to access off of Wantage Road, plus new 7kW solar panel system to South (roof) elevation. Amended plans received 9 January. SPC did not object to the original application but did object the amended plans. Approved 14 March.

Other planning matters – new digital planning service.

A free online service has launched to allow residents to check to see if they need to submit a planning application. This service will make it easier for residents to understand if they need to submit a planning application for items such as solar panels, loft conversions, adding an outbuilding or adding a dropped kerb. You can find the new service on

<https://planningservices.westberks.gov.uk/find-out-if-you-need-planning-permission>

Other matters

Due to the roadworks and closure of the crossroads, the litter pick has been rescheduled to 29 June. Refreshments available for those taking part and a 'bag of treats for a bag of collected rubbish' incentive for children.

Two large flower troughs have been purchased for the High Street adjacent to the meadows. These will be filled with plants in the near future. Volunteers are required for watering the filled troughs.

Next meeting

The next Council meeting will be in the Morrell Room on Monday 10 June at 7.50pm See www.streatley.org from 3 June for the agenda.

Fly posting and signs in Goring

Goring-on-Thames Parish Council (GPC) has adopted a Posters and Signs Policy which sets out the general principles and approach GPC will follow in respect of posters and signs in the Parish. The areas GPC seeks to monitor are: fly posting, signs on premises, signage in public spaces, A-Board pavement signs.

GPC acknowledges the importance of advertising signs for village businesses and event organisers, but will also consider their impact upon the appearance of our rural village environment, wholly within the Chiltern's National Landscape (formerly AONB).

Event organisers – permission and size

Organisers of all one-off events to be held in the Local Area (defined as Goring, Streatley, South Stoke, and Moulsoford) are reminded of the need to obtain the prior permission of the owners of relevant telegraph poles, other structures etc

The Town and Country Planning (Control of Advertisements) (England) Regulations 2007 specifies that the area of temporary notices for a local and charitable event – this does not include commercial events – must not be more than 0.6m² in area. For reference, A1 size is 594mm x 841mm = 0.499m². Larger banners may be allowed for specific events, but these should first be discussed with the Parish Clerk.

Prompt removal of posters and signs

Posters and signs should be promptly removed by organisers once the event is over. If this is not done posters displayed by those organisations are liable, on subsequent occasions, to be removed without notice. In particular the following material is liable to removal:

- attached to telegraph poles, other structures, etc more than 14 days prior to, or seven days after the event.
- any that are up more than 21 days, or otherwise out of date.

The Parish Council will generally seek removal of posters and signs from areas for which it, or SODC, or appropriate others, are responsible. The following are liable to be removed:

- posters/flyers/signs considered to be a hazard or distraction to road users, specifically any at the three crossroads of Wallingford Road with Reading Road, with High Street and with Elvendon Road.
- posters/flyers/signs on trees.
- posters/flyers/signs for events to be held outside of the Local Area.
- commercial posters, though sponsored boards are allowed if advertising charitable events and subject to the time limitations above.

GPC's policy together with general background information on advertising regulations based on *The Town and Country Planning (Control of Advertisements) (England) Regulations 2007* is at

www.goringparishcouncil.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Poster-Signs-Policy-2024-03-11.pdf

MEDICAL INFORMATION

- **Doctor**—to contact a doctor between 8am and 6.30pm ring **01491 872372**. When the surgery is not open, at night and at weekends (i.e. 6.30pm-8am Monday to Friday and throughout the weekend and Bank Holidays) **111**.

This number is also available on the surgery answerphone. You may be asked to attend Abingdon Hospital, or Townlands Hospital in Henley. For the most up-to-date information see www.goringwoodcotemedicalpractice.nhs.uk

- **Nearest Casualty Department:** Royal Berkshire Hospital, Reading **0118 322 7020**

- **Nearest First Aid Units:** Townland Hospital, Henley **01865 903755**, or Abingdon Community Hospital **01865 903476**

- **NHS Direct** is available for medical advice 24 hours a day, on **111**. Your local pharmacy can also offer you a range of services, including advice and medicines to relieve symptoms of minor ailments.

- **Emergency Dentist** – Weekdays 6.30pm-10pm, Weekends and Bank Holidays 9am-9pm. **0845 345 8995**

- **Goring medical equipment** – Equipment including, wheelchairs, toilet aids, mobility aids and more. **01491 872736** or **874333** anytime.

- **Transport Office** – Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday (10am - 12noon) to arrange transport to local surgeries, dentists and hospitals. **01491 873565**.

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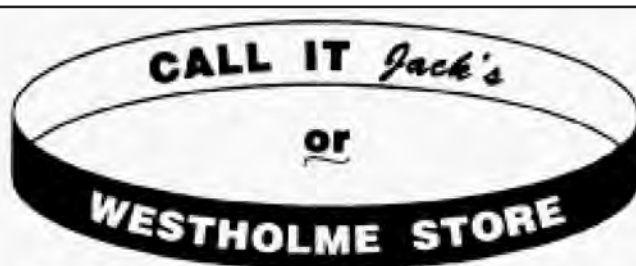
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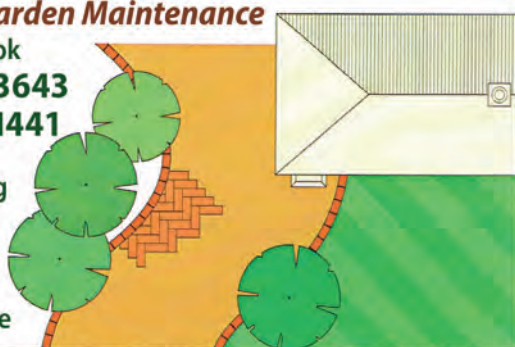
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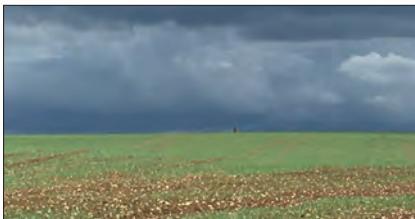
Nuffield in the hedge



Compton - spot the pillar



Hagbourne Hill



Ashampstead - so near but yet so far



Lardon Chase - final

Looking for a local adventure and inspired by Alistair Humphreys, I decided that the 'Seven Summits of Streatley' would be an ideal way to start the May bank holiday. The idea was to cycle a loop connecting the seven highest trig points on a Streatley centred Ordnance Survey map to complete a low-key adventure that did not require the expenditure of the more commonly seen international Seven Summits (Everest, Mont Blanc, Kilimanjaro etc) alongside embracing a slightly more achievable goal.

As I'm sure you're all aware, triangulation pillars, or trig points, were built as the bases for theodolites to attach to so that more accurate mapping could be made of the country. There are 6,500 of them scattered around the UK, and whilst not being used for surveying anymore, they still provide a landmark through the countryside. Our seven highest local points provided a reassuringly extensive loop of the map for Jake, Phil and I to tackle on 4 May.

An immediate puncture slowed our progress to the first target in Woodcote and there was further disappointment that the pillar there seemed to have been knocked down as part of a building development so a photo in front of the enormous aerial had to do in its place. However, a quick spin up the road to Nuffield with its trig point placed at 212 metres above sea level was more successful, although not very glamorous as the pillar was now tucked into the middle of a brambly hedge.

Far more satisfying was the result of a long spin to the west where Hagbourne Hill's pillar stood proudly at a high point in the centre of a field with a full 360-degree panorama. Morale though was beginning to flag at this point due to the sapping trail conditions after our fine run of spring weather and so I waved goodbye to my companions as they disappeared down the Ridgeway having tagged another beautifully open pillar on the top of Lowbury Hill.

Number five was the mildly demoralising pillar tucked into a hedge in a mucky field gateway on the road out of Compton, before heading further south to the edge of Cold Ash with its own pillar tucked surprisingly into the middle of a thicket of trees. The whole trig point system was set up later than you might guess, with the first one only built in April 1936 (in the week that a Gap neighbour of mine would have been celebrating his first birthday) and the cement of the last one drying in June 1962. I can only assume that whilst the woods look mature, when the Cold Ash point was constructed, the ground was much more open than now.

Yet more new trails were to be discovered heading East to the final (and most picturesque) pillar in the middle of a field outside Ashampstead. Sadly the farmer's crops meant I couldn't justifiably get close to lay my hands on the concrete itself, but the view of the proud little column beneath a brooding sky was a fitting marker.

All that was left was a gentle spin home to wander along to our very own trig point at the top of Lardon Chase and Lough Down. Sadly this too is now firmly embedded in the hedge amongst nettles but thankfully the nearby bench provided a suitable spot for rest and reflection. A good day out in our beautiful area with new (to me) roads and trails to follow, and a reminder that adventure is to be had on our doorstep as well as in more exotic climes.

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Goring 10k review

The 2024 Goring 10km was held on Sunday 17 March. Rain on the morning of the event didn't deter the brave runners as we had one of our biggest fields in recent years with 635 running on the day.

By the race start at 11am, Matt Rogan, sports journalist sounded the Klaxon to clear skies. Runners encountered some water on the course and mud on the offroad sections, but smiled through it as captured by photographer Simon Booker.

The winner was Matthew Lock in a time of 00:33:39 and the leading woman Leonie Glasson came in 00:41:57. Awards to the winners were presented by Bob Warmingham and all runners were given an eco-medal by Goring Primary School children and the now legendary finisher's flapjack made by Pierreponts. All the results are available online: <https://goring10k.com/results/>

Some lovely comments were received from runners on the day:

'I enjoyed it very much – really well organised event and a scenic route. I highly recommend the Goring 10k.'

'Thank you for a great race, marshalled by a friendly and very efficient team. Such fun!'



10K lead runners



Two runners loving every minute of the race

All photos: Simon Booker



It feels great to win!

'Had great fun running for the first time at this event. Was a beautiful run with some challenging hills. Thank you, I shall be coming again next year!'

The volunteer committee are still counting the money and paying suppliers, but we hope the event will raise close to £20k for Goring Primary School. The underfunded school is planning to use the money to support the development of a learning hub.

A spokesperson for Goring Primary School said: 'We are so grateful to everyone who contributed to the Goring 10k – be they runners, marshalls, sponsors or the volunteer committee. It is a wonderful community event and a vital fundraiser for our school, Goring Primary. Like many schools, we have been reliant on donations to purchase basic capital items essential to education such as reading books, the Mymaths Scheme and sports equipment. Funds from this year's Goring 10k will help us to create a learning hub fitted with computers that the children will use to support their digital learning.'

The committee would like to thank all the sponsors who have contributed to the event – Warmingham as the generous headline sponsor, and others giving in kind or financially including: Pierreponts, KA Technology, Gap HR Services, The Botanical Gardener, Peek Vision, Simon Booker, The Oratory School, Plan B Fitness, Simplehuman, Alliance Complete Facilities Management, Field Seymour Parkes and The Swan at Streatley.

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Goring & Streatley Golf Club Women's County Championship success

Spring has been good to the women at Goring & Streatley Golf Club (G & S). At the end of March, their elite team won the Berkshire Scratch Gold League competition for the very first time. Congratulations go to Ann Williams (team captain), Vicky Prietzel, Sarah Heath, Emily Savage, Margaret Berriman, Jo Grant, Lorraine Burt and Hannah Goldsmith. G & S were founder members of this premier league in 1976 and have competed every year since. Team member, Margaret Berriman, who has played in the league for almost 40 years, was overwhelmed by the victory, which depended on the very last putt of the last match in the last game of the season.

In April, the county spring competitions proved to be a happy hunting ground for Goring and Streatley's women golfers. Four members took part in the 1st Division Spring Meeting at East Berks Golf Club, where Vicky Prietzel came away with the Scratch Prize with a wonderful score of 71.

The Tegner Trophy was held at Castle Royle Golf Club. This is a 36-hole scratch (zero handicap) competition which is also a qualifier for the County Championship. G & S had three entrants, with Sarah Heath winning the Trophy, as well as the handicap Tournament Cup, thanks to an excellent gross score of 151. Vicky Prietzel and Emily Savage also qualified for the knock-out stages and their combined scores meant that Goring & Streatley Golf Club was chosen to represent Berkshire at the England Golf Club Champions Cup later this year.



Vicky and Sarah celebrate success

Photo: Ann Williams

Could you be interested in playing golf? It's an excellent sport for all abilities, it's great for exercise and provides the ideal opportunity to socialise and meet new friends. The G & S golf academy will help you get started or improve your game – for further information contact the club on [01491 873229](tel:01491873229) / kiersa@goringgolf.co.uk

Shaun Doran

Goring & Streatley Golf Club

A great variety of tennis on offer in Goring

We are well underway with the summer tennis season, although the weather hasn't realised it yet!

We had a very successful Open Day at the end of April despite the conditions. Hardy Goring Tennis Club members were on hand to welcome visitors, try Cardio and Walking Tennis and get some excellent CPR training from Goring First Responder Su Absolom. It was great to see some of our fantastic Juniors in action too.

If you missed out there are some great opportunities to join in, we'd love to meet you. Need some help getting back into tennis or want to play more?

We still have a few places on our Return to Tennis course starting on Tuesday 4 June – 6pm-6.45pm. Our next Cardio Tennis course starts Monday 3 June 10.30am-11.20am. Walking Tennis is on Wednesdays from 1 May 2pm- 3pm.

New joiners and non-members welcome to any session, contact chairman@goring-tennis.co.uk to find out more. Coaching for all courses is provided by Oxfordshire Tennis. Information and ways of booking for all our activities is on www.goring-tennis.co.uk

If you're already a player and want to join in, non-members can come for a free taster to any of our social sessions – details on the website. Finally, our teams that play in the Oxfordshire leagues are always looking for new recruits – contact match.sec@goring-tennis.co.uk to get involved.

Jane Cartledge
GTC Chair

Sun shines on croquet and bowls season opener

On Sunday 14 April Goring Gap Croquet & Bowls Club launched its 2024 Spring/Summer Season under sunny skies on a cool though pleasant spring day. Thanks to the expert green-fingered efforts of Rob Francis and other club members, Goring's Bowling Green looked the prettiest of pictures, with the playing surface now in better condition than it has been for years. This special season opener featured a mixture of demonstration and competition, and was very well attended by existing club members and interested new participants.

In the morning it was lovely to see bowls being played in Goring once again, after the hiatus of the last few years. Following a brief introduction to the game by Jackie French, everyone had a go with the club's recently acquired woods, a much appreciated donation from local bowls players. Weekly social bowls sessions take place from late April onwards.

Jim Bartlett and Adrian Hatt then wowed us with a master class on the game of Association Croquet (AC). This is the original, highly strategic form of the game. It remains the 'blue riband' of croquet at elite level, though it's less often played at village clubs such as ours, where we focus on the shorter, more sociable game of Golf Croquet (GC). Suitably instructed, attendees then took the opportunity to experience the break-building potential of AC for ourselves, with varying degrees of success.

After lunch, some gently competitive GC matches concluded a most enjoyable day on the lawn. Overall it was a splendid way to start the season, leaving us all looking forward to the good weather and regular playing sessions ahead.

You can find full details of all croquet and bowls at the club on our new website at www.GoringGapCroquetBowls.uk

Goring Gap Croquet & Bowls Club

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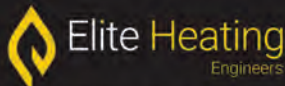
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FORTHCOMING EVENTS

David Slarks ggn diary@gmail.com

PIANO RECITAL, ST THOMAS' CHURCH

On Saturday 22 June, from 3-4pm, at St Thomas' Church Goring, a piano recital by local pianist Patrick Lillie. A selection of works by Debussy, Liszt, Chopin and Beethoven. There will be light refreshments afterwards in the Canterbury Room. Entry is free, with a retiring collection in aid of the church's musical outreach fund.

Further afield

READING BACH CHOIR, SUMMER CONCERT



If you enjoyed the Reading Bach Choir at St Thomas' in March, then why not come along to St Andrew's Church in Caversham for their summer concert on Saturday 6 July? This time they will be travelling all around the continent of America, from north to south and east to west, exploring a variety of countries, cultures and time periods. It promises to be an exciting journey... Tickets (£15, £5 for under 18s) available from www.readingbachchoir.org.uk with full details of the evening.

THE BRITISH MODERN MILITARY HISTORY SOCIETY

Wednesday 4 June 7.30pm, *D Day Through German Eyes* Speaker: John Trigg. Wednesday 12 June, 7.30pm. *Women in Intelligence*. Speaker: Helen Fry. All talks take place in the Village Hall in Woodcote. Admission is £8 and includes the talk, light refreshments and snacks. There will also be a raffle. A donation to a military charity of our speaker's choice is made from each talk. To book a place at the talks email info@bmmhs.org

WALLED GARDENS OF WALLINGFORD.

Sunday 9 June 1-5.30pm

The very popular Walled Gardens of Wallingford are opening again this year. There are 12 gardens to see, including three which are new this year.

There will be teas, trips on the river in an electric boat and stalls where you can buy glasses of wine, strawberries and cream, flowers (from Green & Gorgeous), a local artist, plant sales, the World of Mint and a craft table for children. All proceeds will go to charity including Style Acre and the Corn Exchange, Wallingford.

Visit www.walledgardensofwallingford.co.uk for details.

Advance sale of tickets at £6 available from Root One, KP Stationers and online. You will also be able to buy tickets on the day at £8 from 13 Wood Street.

WALLINGFORD AND DISTRICT ART CLUB

7.30pm on Tuesday 18 June

Join our friendly Wallingford and District Art club for a live demonstration as professional artist, Ken Organ, demonstrates painting a portrait in oils. An Oxfordshire-based artist, Ken's work is figurative and features a wide range of subjects including trees, sheep, water, landscapes, still life, portraiture and the human figure. The demo will be held at Centre 70 (off Goldsmiths Lane in Wallingford) and is free for club members

or £5 for visitors. For further information visit

www.wallingfordartclub.org.uk /
admin@wallingfordartclub.org.uk

PANGBOURNE CHORAL SOCIETY GALA

ANNIVERSARY CONCERT

Saturday 22 June 7.30pm

Falkland Islands Memorial Chapel, Pangbourne College PCS's Summer Concert will mark their Golden Anniversary and will be a special Gala occasion marking the Choir's evolution into a well-respected amateur group of singers who love what they do. Current PCS Music Director, Sara Benbow, will share the conductor duties with PCS's founding director, Ralph Allwood, and two directors who did so much to shape and develop PCS choral accomplishments over many years – Bob Barsby and Jonathan Brown.

The programme includes works by Mozart (*Ave Verum*), Haydn (from the *Creation*), Brahms (from *German Requiem*), Parry (*I Was Glad*), Handel (*Zadok The Priest*), as well as works by Chilcott (*Shenandoah*), Howells (*Jubilate*), Mendelssohn, and Michael Kamen. Tickets (£15 – and £8 for under-18s) are available from Garlands Organic & Natural, Pangbourne, from PCS website and members, and also on the door.

AFTERNOON TEAS, ST MARY'S ALDWORTH

From Wednesday 3 July and then every Wednesday in July, August and September, 2.30 – 4.30pm. Delicious homemade cakes in the company of the Aldworth Giants. For further details and to book groups contact: Gill Wilding 01635 578624 / gillwilding@hotmail.com

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7.30pm (except where stated).

Sun 26 May and Tue 28 May **LOVE LIES BLEEDING** (15)

Mon 27 May **THE ROYAL BALLET: THE WINTER'S TALE** Adults £18, seniors £15, under 18s £10

Wed 29 May (2.30pm and 7.30pm) **42ND STREET - THE MUSICAL** (PG) Adults £18, seniors £15, under 18s £10

Thu 30 May 7.20pm **SADLER'S WELLS AND UNIVERSAL MUSIC UK : MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE** Adults £18, seniors £15, under 18s £10

Fri 31 May **SWEDEN CAROLINE** (15)

Sat 1 Jun 10.30am **BUTTERFLY TALE** (U) All tickets £5

Sat 1 Jun 2.30pm **SWEDEN CAROLINE** (15)

Sat 1 Jun - Mon 3 Jun **THE FALL GUY** (12A, tbc)

Tue 4 Jun (7.30am) and Wed 5 Jun (2.30pm) **MY NATIONAL GALLERY, LONDON: EXHIBITION ON SCREEN** (tbc) Adults £10, under 18s £5

Wed 5 Jun **MIDSOMER MURDERS: DEATH OF A HOLLOW MAN** (12A) All tickets £5

Tue 6 Jun (7pm) **NTLIVE: THE MOTIVE AND THE CUE** (15) Adults £18, seniors £15, under 18s £10

Fri 7 Jun **BLACKBIRD, BLACKBIRD, BLACKBERRY** (15)

Tue 11 Jun 7.15pm **THE ROYAL OPERA: ANDREA CHENIER** Adults £18, seniors £15, under 18s £10

Sun 16 Jun and Mon 17 Jun **CHALLENGERS** (15)

Tue 18 Jun NTLIVE: **NYE** (15) Adults £18

See www.cornexchange.org.uk or Arcade Noticeboard or Info Office or Library for more details. Box Office 01491 825000 is open Fri & Sat 10am-12.30pm or book via www.cornexchange.org.uk Booking fee 50p per ticket up to a maximum of £2.

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Thursday 30 May

Goring Gap u3a 10.30-12noon, GVH.
Speaker: Roger Browne, *Jerome Kern*
- *the story of a great composer*.

Saturday 1 June

Goring Repair Café 10-12.30pm, GVH.
Bring one or two items in for repair. Or
pop into Café Bellême for refreshments
and look at what we do.

Monday 3 June

• **Goring Mobile Post Office** 10am-
12noon. Westholme stores. Open every
Monday and Thursday.

• **Coffee and Chat Drop-in** 10.30-
12.30pm, The Hub. All are welcome to
drop in for refreshments and company.
Every Monday. Suggested donation £3.
• **Puzzles and Pals** 12.30-4.30pm, The
Hub. All are welcome to do jigsaws and
socialize over a cuppa and biscuits.
Suggested donation £3.

• **Goring Bridge Club** 6.45pm, GVH.

• **Writing Group** 7.45-9.30pm Library.
Support group for local writers.

Tuesday 4 June

• **Carers Group** 10.30-12.30pm, The
Hub. 1st Tuesday of the month. Peer
support, talks and information for carers.
Suggested donation £3.

• **Glib Library Book Group** 5-6pm,
Library. Talk to Library staff.

• **Parkinson's Support Group** 10.30am
-12.30pm, The Hub. Peer support,
talks, information, coffee and chat for
Parkinson's sufferers and/or their carer(s).
Suggested donation £3pp/£5 per couple.

Wednesday 5 June

• **Brain Longevity Course** 10:30-
12.30pm, The Hub, four weeks in odd
months. Information on how to reduce
your or a loved one's risk of and/or
progression of dementia. Suggested
donation £5.

• **Chair Yoga** 1.15-2.15pm, The Hub,
weekly in odd months. Gentle mind/body
exercise for all abilities, carers and cared
for people; please prebook. Suggested
donation £5.

• **Stay and Play** 10-11.15am, Library.
Toddler Group and Rhyme Time for pre-
school children and their carers. Drop in.
• **Goring Village Greenfingers** 7.30pm,
SL. Alan Goold (Henry Street Garden
Centre) *All About Roses*. Competition:
A single rose (of any type) from your
garden.

Thursday 6 June

• **Fitness for 50+** 11.30-12.30pm, The
Hub, – but all ages/abilities are welcome.
Jo Cassells' fun and friendly exercise
class. Please prebook. £8pp.

• **Story time** 10.30-11am, Library. Drop
in. Every Thursday.

• **Goring Mobile Post Office** 10am-
12noon. Westholme stores.

Friday 7 June

• Gap Festival starts and continues until
Sunday 16 June. www.thegapfestival.org

• **Games Group** 10.30-12.30pm, The
Hub. All are welcome to play board or
card games and do jigsaws over a cuppa
and biscuits. Suggested donation £3.

Saturday 8 June

• **Communi-Tea Coffee Time** 10.30am-
12.30pm, 2nd & 4th Saturdays of month.
The Hub. All welcome to meet people
over tea/coffee/biscuits and optional
activities. Suggested donation £3.

• **Chess with tuition** 10.30-12.30pm,
The Hub. 2nd and 4th Saturdays of month.
All welcome (but children must be
accompanied by an adult) to enjoy a
game, hone your skills or learn to play.
Prebook for tuition. Suggested donation
£3 (or £5 with tuition).

• **Great Big Green Day** (See details on
P31) Rectory Garden, Goring High Street
(if wet St Thomas' Church and Village
Hall). Our local contribution to the nation's
Big Green Week. Includes a Goring
Village Greenfingers stall.

Tuesday 11 June

Junior Lego Club 4.45-6pm, Library.
Free. Book in Library - limited spaces.

Wednesday 12 June

• **Cleeve by Goring WI** 7.30pm SL.
Sharron Jenkinson: *Hearing Dogs for
Deaf People*. New members welcome.
Just come along on the night or contact:
Katrina Cooper, [01491 875334](tel:01491875334)

• **Genie News copy deadline** Genie is
published twice a month.

news@genienews.org

• **Goring Gap News copy deadline** for
July edition.

• **Gap Textile Group** 7-10pm, CR.
The Gap Textile Group has an exciting
and varied programme of textile related
activities at the monthly meetings. To join,
contact Merete Hawkins, [07747 780158](tel:07747780158)

Saturday 15 June

Market Day 10am-4pm. Goring Library is
running a stall at this event.

Sunday 16 June

Gap Festival Final day.

www.thegapfestival.org

Tuesday 18 June

Social Scrabble 4.45-7pm. Library. Drop
in.

Wednesday 19 June

• **Arts Society Goring** 11am, GVH.
Annual General Meeting. All welcome

• **Coffee Morning** 10.30-12noon,
St Andrew's South Stoke. Every 3rd
Wednesday of the month.

Thursday 20 June

Pick a Flick 10.30am-2pm, CR. *The Old
Oak (2023)*. £5 including a light lunch.
Contact Sarah Fraser on [01491 871838](tel:01491871838) or
Jenny Boyd on [01491 872109](tel:01491872109) to book in
and to ask for transport if you require it.

Saturday 22 June

• **Piano Recital by Patrick Lillie**, 3pm St
Thomas' Church. See P43

• **Goring Primary School Summer Fête**
12noon-3pm.

Sunday 23 June

The Hub, Mill Cottage Garden Party
11am-4pm, Mill Cottage, Goring. Come
and enjoy Steve Mitchell, the UK's top
tribute act, performing George Michael's
music! For tickets www.eventbrite.co.uk
and search for George Michael Garden
Party. Eventbrite will confirm with an email,
which you should keep for presentation at
the gate upon admission.

Wednesday 26 June

• **Cleeve by Goring WI** Strawberry and
Prosecco Evening, Nun's Acre Garden.

• **Genie News Copy Deadline** Genie is
published twice a month.

news@genienews.org

• **Arts Society Goring** 10.30am and
2.30pm, GVH. Lecture by Jonathan Conlin
on *The Nation's Mantelpiece – A history
of the National Gallery in Ten Paintings*.

Visitors welcome to attend for a maximum
of three times before joining. £5 including
refreshments. Details of our activities and
membership www.artsocietygoring.org.uk

Thursday 27 June

Goring Gap u3a 10.30-12noon, GVH.
Speaker: Hayley Scott, *The Life of a
Metropolitan Police Scene Investigator*.

Friday 28 June

• **Goring Unplugged** 7.30pm for 8, GVH.
Entry is £5. BYOB + nibbles.

• **Moonrakers Concert** 7.30-10pm, St
Andrew's Church, South Stoke. A musical
journey through time. Tickets £12 online
/ £10 from South Stoke Village shop, to
include interval refreshments.

Saturday 29 June

Local History Walk 2-4pm. FOGL will be
joining up with the Local History Society
to explore the history of the businesses
and shops of Goring, followed by tea
and cake in the Library and a quiz. £5pp
Tickets from the Library and Inspiration
(cash only).

Sunday 30 June

Withymead Nature Reserve Cream Tea
Sunday, 10am-5pm, with cream tea from
2-5pm. No need to pre-book, just turn
up and enjoy. Open all other Sundays in
June. More info at www.withymead.org

See more events on the Events Calendar
at www.genienews.org

The following abbreviations are used:

Bellême Room	BR
Canterbury Room	CR
Free Church Hall	FCH
Goring Community Centre	GCC
Goring Social Club	GSC
Goring Village Hall	GVH
Morrell Room	MR
Storton Lodge	SL

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 Serves 2. Additional sides will be available.

events@goringgolf.co.uk
 Bookings not required

Goring & Streatley Golf Club

Goring Sailing Club Open Day



Photo: Chris Rickards

Roadworks at Streatley cross roads - 13 April



Photo: Nigel Fountain

The scar looking west from above Goring



See P5, 15 and 17

Photo: Matthew Ball

Looking south along the scar from above Streatley



See P5, 15 and 17

Photo: Matthew Ball