

Goring Gap News

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

Hairy Legs Challenge 2025



Little Legs rise to the challenge and run for the finishing line. See P35

Photo: Chris Nicholson

Wild flowers in Church Lane, Streatley



Photo: Adrian Turner



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Goring Gap News

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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.

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

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If your copy has not arrived after five days contact Victoria Brandon. (See above.)

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GRAPEVINE

Lybbe's Almshouse vacancy

One of the Lybbe's Almshouses in Goring has become vacant and consequently the trustees of the charity are seeking a resident(s).

Applications are sought from persons over 60 years of age who are in need or experiencing financial hardship and who are resident in or have connection with the Parish of Goring, or Checkendon or Whitchurch.

An application form can be requested from The Clerk to the Trustees
chris@ctassell.co.uk

All applications are made in confidence.

Bloom judging time again on 7 July

Goring on Thames in Bloom's committed volunteers work year-round in an environmentally friendly way to keep our village looking attractive for both residents and visitors alike. As well as tending the beds on the railway station and the Gardiner Field, they strive to maintain the wild flower area by the BT site and other areas around the village car park. In the streets there are 30 containers of different styles to take care of, filled with plants appropriate to the season. The watering burden is considerable, especially when the weather is dry. We hope you enjoy the results of our labours.

To keep our work up to scratch, we enter the Britain in Bloom competition each year. The judges come on a two-hour tour and inspect our efforts, making an assessment in the categories of horticultural achievement, environmental responsibility and community participation. Little escapes their eagle eyes.

This year the judges are coming on Monday morning, 7 July and we'd like your help to present all of Goring in the best light. Our Bloomers will have been out weeding and litter picking, but if you could please check the area outside your own property and make sure it is clean, tidy and free of weeds, that would be great.

Thank you and wish us luck!

Bloom committee

Proposed change to unitary local government

Significant change to the organisation of local government is coming. District councils such as SODC will have to amalgamate and alternative options are under discussion for our area. More information about this is on the SODC and OCC websites.

In March, each cabinet or executive at six local district and city councils endorsed a joint response to government, that set out how local authorities are collaborating to develop proposals for new unitary structures. The response included information on each of the three options being developed for Oxfordshire, in line with the criteria set out in the government's statutory invitation. The three options are:

1. A single county unitary council for Oxfordshire – Oxfordshire Council. This is the preferred option of Oxfordshire County Council

2. Two unitary councils for Oxfordshire and West Berkshire: Oxford and Shires Council (Cherwell, Oxford City and West Oxfordshire) and Ridgeway Council (White Horse and the unitary council of West Berkshire).

This is the preferred option of SODC, Vale of White Horse and West Berkshire.

3. Three unitary authorities – with a unitary Oxford city council on expanded boundaries as well as a northern and a southern unitary council, the latter including West Berkshire.

Next steps

The district and county councils will be engaging with residents, businesses, institutions and investors on proposals in June/July. This will help inform the final proposal, which needs to be submitted to government by 28 November 2025. The government will then decide what form unitarisation will take in Oxfordshire.

In parallel, all Oxfordshire councils, with other partners, will continue collaborating to propose a mayoral strategic authority to government as part of the national programme of devolution.

If you wish to be involved, the SODC information and consultation details can be found at <https://twocouncils.org/home> The closest SODC engagement event seems to be on 1 July 2.30-5.30pm Henley Town Hall.



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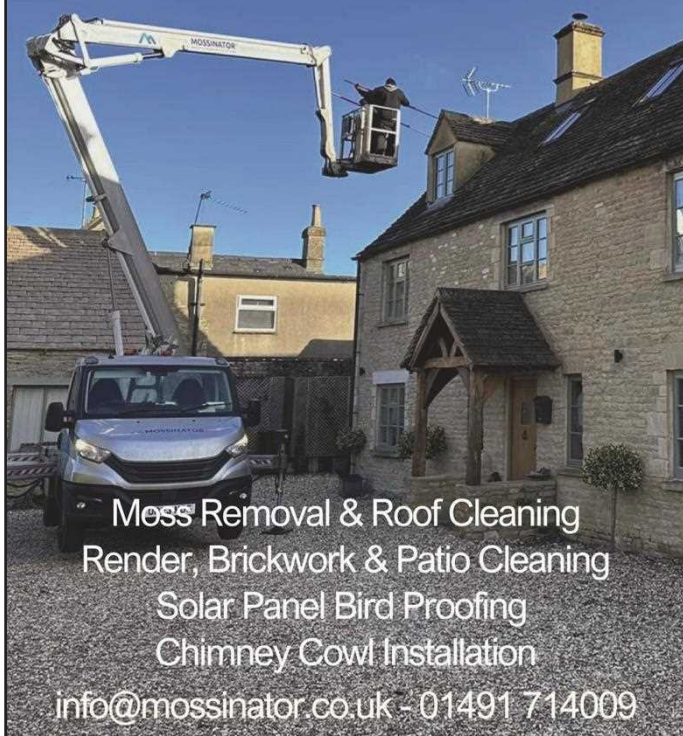
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Celebrating VE Day at Goring Social Club

On Monday 5 May the Goring Social Club was buzzing with excitement as our community came together to celebrate the 80th anniversary of VE Day. For this special occasion we opened our doors to everyone, not just members. We're thrilled to say the event was a huge success, packed with joy, camaraderie and a wonderful sense of shared history.

A day to remember

Everyone enjoyed a fantastic Bank Holiday afternoon, filled with music, family games and delicious cream teas. The atmosphere was incredibly warm and welcoming. A real highlight was the live entertainment, featuring performances by our very own committee member and professional singer Anne Sherwood and local hero Tom Canning, a Leading Hand in the Royal Navy. Their performances had everyone waving flags and applauding enthusiastically, adding a truly special touch. As well as Tom in his Royal Navy uniform, we had historian Richard White in his home guard uniform, displaying all sorts of war time memorabilia. Richard's business, 'History into Schools', provides workshops on a variety of historic eras for schools around the country.

The games and raffle added a fun element, and the community's generosity really shone through. The event successfully raised £700 for two fantastic causes: Motor Neurone Disease Association and The Royal Navy Charity.

Our VE Day bash wasn't just about remembering history, it truly highlighted how strong and connected our community is. Seeing so many people come out to honour the past and help out great causes was heartwarming.

Get to know your Social Club

If you're not too familiar with the Social Club, why not pop in and have a look around? Our committee is really working hard to make the club a central part of the village. It's been a village institution for years and we always welcome new membership applications. The Club is a fantastic place for local clubs, groups and sports teams to gather and with crib nights, bingo, snooker, pool, darts and live sports on TV, there's truly something for everyone. Plus, members get reduced drink prices and you can even bring guests for a small signing-in fee.

Mark your calendars: British and Irish Lions Rugby

It was so great to see everyone come together and make the VE Day celebration such a memorable event. The good news is that there's another chance to get the whole community together this summer. As the only place in the village with Sky Sports, we're planning another open day for the first British and Irish Lions rugby match on Saturday 19 July. We'd love to welcome you, your family and your friends!

The Staff and Committee of the Social Club

Streatley's secret sanitation squad springs into service

On 24 May and building on some stellar work by our Beavers (see below and P25), the noble citizens of Streatley – well, a noble few – completed their valiant campaign: the Great Litter Pick of 2025. With bags in hand and hope in heart, they scoured the streets for the detritus of human life.

In fact, 'a few' might be overstating it. With no members of the general public making an appearance, the turnout of Streatley councillors could best be described as 'exclusive'. It was less a village-wide crusade and more a private tour of local litter hotspots. Just imagine what we could do with ten more pairs of hands, especially if they arrived armed with good humour and a sense of shared responsibility!

A special mention nevertheless must go to the intrepid adventurers of the 2nd Goring & Streatley Beaver Colony, who took on the challenge of clearing Streatley Meadows with a level of enthusiasm and dedication that would make even the most seasoned eco-warrior proud. They tackled the task with boundless energy, muddy boots and beaming faces, proving that even the smallest paws can make a mighty difference.

Cigarette butts were the clear winners, carpeting the village like confetti from a very unhealthy wedding. Hot on their heels came the holy trinity of modern refreshment: beer cans, Red Bull cans, and a faint whiff of regret. Chocolate wrappers fluttered coyly from hedgerows, coffee cups nested in ditches as if hoping to one day become archaeological curiosities and shattered car lights lay scattered like the broken dreams of parallel parkers past. A surprising – and strangely artistic – addition this year was the abundance of sharp-edged green plastic shards, formerly proud parts of West Berkshire Council recycling bins, now gleaming enigmatically in the grass like some kind of dystopian confetti.

And yet, despite the oddities unearthed and the underwhelming attendance, there was something cheering about it all. It was a reminder (and, hopefully, a future promise) that when a community comes together – even in miniature – something heartening happens. Pride is restored, the landscape breathes again and for a moment, Streatley's sanitation squad springs into service – not for glory or fanfare, but for the quiet satisfaction of making things just a little bit better.

Mark Davis
Streatley Parish Councillor



Army and Navy - Richard White and Tom Canning
Photo: Michele Canning

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Lilting and Lovely

The following is a review of *Lilting and Lovely*, a concert of piano duets by Ikuko Inoguchi and Sally Goodworth in St Mary's, Streatley on Thames, on Sunday 11 May at 4pm.

Sally Goldworth and Ikuko Inoguchi gave us a brilliant performance of four very difficult piano duets. If I had not been able to see them, their coordination was so excellent that I might have thought it was one person with four hands. The speed of playing and the complex interactions between the players were very accomplished. The choice of pieces and interpretation was excellent. Overall, this was a very uplifting and happy concert.

We were treated to Mozart's *Sonata in B Flat Major*, KV358, written by Mozart to play with his sister Nannerl on a harpsichord, using the twenty fingers as an entire orchestra of trills and ornaments and including a few loud and startling chords in the middle of the second gently lyrical movement. This was followed by Fauré's enchanting *Dolly Suite*, a set of movements each written as a present for Dolly Bardac when she was a small child. Poulenc's *Piano Sonata for Four Hands* followed, a most exciting piece, both for the audience and for the performers, with much hand crossing and very strong dynamics and tempo. Debussy's *Petite Suite* ended the concert. The pianist and music publisher Jaques Durand had asked Debussy to write some duets accessible to skilled amateurs. Debussy did not pay attention to the 'skilled amateur' instruction but did write a set of wonderful musical pictures. Ikuko and Sally played the entire piece to perfection. The encore was the very jolly *Foxtrot and Six Eight* by Matyas Seiber. My own favourite was the Poulenc as it is such a splendid conglomeration of serious, comic, joyful and tender and even at points reminiscent of an express train.

Thank you so much to our wonderful audience, for whom at last we had good weather! And a huge thank you to everyone who provided tea and delicious cakes for us all after the performance, served them and did all the washing up. Especial thanks to our regular volunteers, John, Elaine, Rosemary, Linda and Mary, without whom these concerts could not run. The tea and cakes are provided by the Friends of St Mary's (FoSM) and any profits go to FoSM. Stella Robinson



Ikuko Inoguchi & Sally Goodworth

Photo: Stella Robinson

John Warburton retires from Wallingford Corn Exchange

On Saturday 31 May, around 100 people gathered to celebrate the retirement of Wallingford resident, John Warburton, after over 55 years' service to the Corn Exchange. The afternoon started with a screening of the film, *Easy Virtue*, where John made a brief appearance (one of over 200 films he was in as an extra). Following this, there was a drinks party where John was honoured by Corn Exchange Chair, Gloria Wright.

In her speech, Gloria noted that John first joined the Sinodun Players (SPs) in 1970 for that year's pantomime *Cinderella*. Since then, he has appeared in 30 or more productions for the SPs. She outlined how significant his efforts had been in making the Corn Exchange the success it is today, starting in 1975, when John was behind the fund-raising appeal to buy the current building, and was heavily involved in obtaining Planning & Listed Building consent, with conversion work beginning in early 1976.

Since then, John has undertaken fund-raising for a building extension in 1980, purchase of a sound system in 1986 and a digital projection system in 2012. Apart from this, John was Corn Exchange General Manager from 1980-2001, a Trustee for nine years, newsletter editor for 15 years and Cinema Manager, responsible for all film bookings, from 1995-2025.

In the 2015 New Year's Honours List, John was awarded the British Empire Medal for 'Services to the Arts in Oxfordshire through the Corn Exchange Wallingford'. This is a very fitting accolade to his many achievements.



MAP afternoon to raise funds for sustainable farming

Sustainable farming projects in South Wales and India are being supported through an afternoon of music, art and poetry (MAP) organised by OneNature-Commonwealth, which Ishak Nadeem co-founded with Michael Sippitt, Ex-Chair, Clarks Legal (and previously long-term resident of Goring) to back initiatives that protect the environment, increase biodiversity and support communities towards food security. See www.onenaturecommonwealth.org

The 26 July event in Woolhampton village hall 3.30-6.30pm features a classical music concert and a sale of paintings by Dr Ishak Nadeem and his art class friends. Ishak will also be reading poems from his book *Rhythm of Life*, which will be on sale.

'We're currently helping the Blackhills Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) project in Swansea and the 1,000 Tree Project, which works with farmers in Karnataka, India,' said Ishak. 'We're able to help through the generosity of our donors and corporate partners. The MAP event is the first we've organised to raise money directly.'



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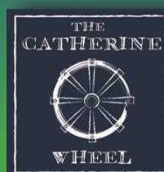
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MUSIC and ARTS continued

Wallingford painting demo

Join our friendly Wallingford and District Art club for our live demo at Centre 70 from 7.30-9.30pm on Tuesday 15 July, where artist Robin Danely will be painting a portrait in oils. Robin is an American artist who has been living and working in Oxford since 2014. She is motivated by a love of the paint itself, and aims to bring subjects to life through dynamic brushwork and bold colours. The meeting is free for club members and £5 for visitors. If you would like information about this event or other club activities, please visit the website at www.wallingfordartclub.org.uk or email admin@wallingfordartclub.org.uk



Musicians love the new 'garden stage' at the Miller of Mansfield

Last month's VE Day bank holiday saw a new arrival in Goring's musical calendar – Millerfest!

The Miller of Mansfield pub has long supported local musicians, and on Sunday 4 May, Millerfest was a great example of that. A day and night of music from great young local musicians and bands, as well as some experienced acts who were fresh to Goring.

It was also the first use of the Miller's brand new 'garden stage' – a lovely intimate performance space in the beer garden. The new stage area includes a covered and heated area with room for a dance floor and plenty of chairs and tables. Perfect for whatever the British summertime throws at us!

Millerfest was organised by Simon and Nick, who also run the popular 'Soundbar' open mic at The Miller on the 2nd Wednesday of every month – and is already making good use of the garden stage. Nick says 'we used the space last month, and it was our busiest ever Soundbar. It's a cool space to play, and people can easily listen or come and go. Everyone loves it.' Check out The Soundbar at The Miller every 2nd Wednesday, from 8pm.



Nick and Simon as Clatter testing out The Miller of Mansfield's new garden stage

Photo: Sid Brenner

Nick Parker

Evening organ recital by Bryan Almond

A recital will take place at 7pm on Sunday 13 July at St Thomas' Church, Goring.

Bryan Almond is St Thomas' Organist Emeritus as well as holding the post of Organist and Assistant Director of Music at St Mary's Church, Primrose Hill, London. Enjoy an hour of music, hearing the many varied different colours of the organ as Bryan plays pieces by a variety of composers including Gibbons, Bach, Briggs and Willan.

The recital is free with a retiring collection towards the ongoing Music Outreach at St Thomas' Church.

Howbery Business Park's Art in the Park competition

Howbery Business Park is inviting entries for the 2025 'Art in the Park' competition on the theme of 'Wellbeing in Nature'. Participants are being asked to interpret how the natural world benefits physical or mental health, with prizes on offer for the best 2D artwork in different age categories.

The deadline for entries is 31 August 2025. Full details of prizes and how to submit work for different age groups (initially as a photo) are on the Howbery park website: www.howberypark.com/art



2024 finalist - Into the water by Kate Randall

Goring Jazz – Trombones for Two

In 1954, two American jazz trombonists, JJ Johnson and Kai Winding, both individually successful in the bebop scene, formed a quintet that had immediate success. The 'Jay & Kai' arrangements and solos, later transcribed and published, formed the programme of trombonists Ross Law and Peter Whitehouse on 16 May. Alto saxist Otto Caretta provided tonal variety, and the ensemble was completed by the house trio, with Martin Pickett ably depping for Nick Hill on piano.

The sound of two trombones in harmony was joyous and exhilarating, right from the up-tempo opener, *This Could Be the Start of Something Big*. Whitehouse, an alumnus of the Royal College of Music and the National Youth Jazz Orchestra (the fabulous NYJO) played with impressive precision and inventiveness, while the genial Kiwi, Ross Law, whom Goring has heard before in different groups, had the more free-wheeling style. Their duet in *Georgia on My Mind* was particularly moving.

Otto Caretta began with a fluent and exciting *Have You Met Miss Jones?* He, too, has played in Goring before and, to my



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MUSIC and ARTS continued

ear, his approach has evolved from cool West Coast to a hotter style reminiscent of Cannonball Adderley. The trombone duo returned for *Blue Monk*, with superb ensemble work, and Martin Pickett's piano solo recreated the angular, percussive style of the composer, Thelonious Monk. The breakneck *Samba de Orfeu* (from the film *Black Orpheus*) featured all three horns, and a terrific drum solo from Mike Goff.

The second set included two great Cole Porter numbers, *I Concentrate on You* and *You'd Be So Nice to Come Home To*, the fruity chords perfectly suiting the trombone sound. For me the highlight was *Take the 'A' Train*, with a superb solo from Caretta and Whitehouse making light work of the semiquaver runs – not easy on a trombone. The final chorus, with the horns trading fours with piano, bass and drums, was a triumph.

Gus McGill

I can't wait to play on the piano in St Thomas'

A local lad who went to Streatley Primary School and is now heading for stardom, will be performing in Goring. With Exeter, Brighton, Bristol, Leeds and Nottingham done, he'll end up coming home to the Gap. Mac Adams (formerly known to many in the village as Ben) is taking on the most ambitious project of his career so far: his first ever UK headline tour. Fittingly, the final date of the tour – titled *Never Know* – will take place right here in Goring, at St Thomas' Church on Sunday 6 July.

Mac Adams, who grew up on The Coombe and now lives in London, has left GGN some voice notes, giving us the latest on his upcoming single *Never Know* and his accompanying tour. Thanks for the voice notes, Mac, and readers, we hope you enjoy.

What inspired your latest single?

Never Know is a song about self-love and self-acceptance. It's a song that details my queerness and my journey to loving and understanding all the parts of me. But more broadly, it is a song about how you'll never know what your life would be like if you hadn't chosen those things. Hopefully it's a song that people can relate to about embracing themselves, and love and change at the same time.

Are you excited to be finishing off your tour in Goring?

So, the tour is finishing at the church. I actually sang mostly at St Mary's in Streatley, but I sang at Christmas in St Thomas' and I've been going there for most of my life, so it's so beautiful that it gets to be there and I can't wait to play on the piano as well, that's a lovely added bonus! I'm releasing my single *Never Know* on the Friday afterwards (11 July). It's the single that the tour is all about.

What's next for Mac Adams?

The tour was my big thing for the year, so once it's done, I'm going to have a little break. It's been pretty non-stop... and it hasn't even started yet! But then, I'm sitting on four new songs, ready to go, so once *Never Know* is out, we'll start the roll out for the next single and the next single and hopefully have more of my work online and continue from there. I'll be doing shows all the time, mostly in London.

About Mac

From going to Streatley Primary as a child, to Abingdon School as a teenager, Mac has always loved music. At the age of seven he started learning piano with Chris Russell. While growing up he played for Goring & Streatley Concert Band, as well as composing and performing with Oxford Welsh Male Voice Choir. In 2019 he even appeared at the GAP Festival. Mac studied English and Musical Theatre at Exeter. Graduating with a first, he then went on to study Commercial Songwriting and Production at Tileyard, London and finished with a distinction. Since then, he has been working as a theatre coach and pursuing music. Mac has recently become a brand ambassador for Casio Music UK and has a residency at Troubadour, the live music venue in London.

Mac's concert will take place at St Thomas' Church on Sunday 6 July at 6pm. Tickets are best bought in advance, but some may be available on the door (for those who are chaotic, joyfully spontaneous or simply disorganised). You can find them on dice.fm by searching 'Mac Adams Never Know Tour'. For more updates Mac's Instagram is [@mac.adamsmusic](https://www.instagram.com/mac.adamsmusic)

Contrary to what some people might think, we here at the Goring Gap News aren't out of sync with the times. If you're a local musician or have some vocal chords on you, why not get in touch and leave us a voice note or two? Contact Dan [07877 425814](tel:07877425814)

Dan Gordon-Potts



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Website service opens for business

Gecko Creative Solutions is thrilled to announce its launch this month in the Goring Gap, offering the full range of website services for individuals and small to medium-sized businesses. It is a small, professional team run by Peter Aylward and Carry de la Harpe who say that although the business is online, they'd always choose to work with companies or organisations based in the area.

'There's no environmental benefit to developing websites on your doorstep – it's not exactly local produce,' Carry laughs. 'But there are huge advantages to meeting in person, especially if you're starting a website from scratch. There's a lot to discuss – you need a deep understanding of your clients' expectations, wants and preferences before you get started, and that is much easier to glean when you're face to face.'

'We've recently launched the new website for Goring Hardware (goringhardware.com) and worked closely with Pete and Danusia throughout the design and build. Being able to meet in person helped us to gauge their thoughts at every stage of the process.'

What services is Gecko offering?

The team is developing new websites, as well as offering services for existing sites (such as optimisation, hosting and maintenance), with Peter looking after the technical side of the business and Carry in charge of creative content where it's needed.

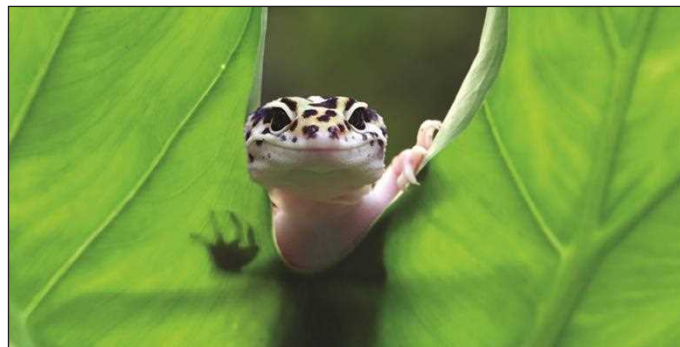
'With new websites, it doesn't matter what type of site needs building, or how complex it needs to be,' says Peter. 'You could be an individual after a simple personal blog, a small business needing an informative online presence, or a company wanting an e-commerce platform for its products and services. We'd love to help.'

With existing sites, Gecko's services include finding bugs that might be taking a site offline, or addressing flaws in the initial programming that could be slowing it down. 'When we're servicing a site, we're making sure that it is live and loading smoothly, that it is virus-free, safe, accessible and works well on all devices,' says Peter. 'We can optimise the site for speed and performance, and for SEO (to make sure it's high in the search engine rankings so it can be easily found). We can also take over the hosting and maintenance, and help with any changes or additions to the content.'

What are your backgrounds and what do you each bring to the company?

Peter spent the first 20 years of his career in software development. After holding several senior management positions, mostly in the field of technology, he is now returning to his passion for software engineering and homing in on traditional website development.

Carry studied Art and English, both of which paved the way for a career involving all aspects of marketing communications. Her role is the creative content. 'Simply put, I look after the words and pictures,' she says. 'I'm here to make sure the site is visually appealing and that the wording is compelling.'



Your roles are very different. How do you work together?

'It's testing, for sure,' says Carry. 'We have plenty of 'healthy debates', but they're always in the best interests of our clients. Actually, it's important for creative and tech to jostle, because there are always compromises to be made.'

Peter says: 'My main goal is for the site to load and function fast and smoothly across all devices – laptops, mobiles, tablets – so the design elements must be scalable and that puts limitations on the choices of images or how you can use them. And to rank high in the search engines, SEO-friendly wording is crucial, so I'm always curbing Carry's ideals for the wording and design. That said, our strength as a team is definitely our differences.'

Carry says: 'My writing career started in advertising copywriting, where 'less is more' and every word has to work extremely hard for its place. But website text is very different. In order for your site to feature high in the search rankings, 'more is often more' by way of content, and specific words, and word combinations, need to be included, repeated and strategically placed.'

Why Gecko?

'If you're not fond of small, scaly creatures, you probably shouldn't visit the site,' Carry laughs. 'It's full of them and they're staring you in the face! But seriously, they're a design dream with their s-bend curves and spectacular colours and shapes. And they're role models for our working practice. Geckos embody all the qualities we'd look for in a service provider. They can overcome obstacles – vertical walls and slippery ceilings; they're flexible – they can reach places other creatures only dream of; they're adaptable – they will bend over backwards to impress you; and, like all excellent websites, they are unique, fast, friendly and hugely appealing (at least we think so).'

Special offer

As a special introductory offer, Gecko is offering 25% off to new clients based in the GGN distribution area, and signing up before the end of August 2025.

Say hello

If you would like to discuss your web-related challenges, Peter or Carry would love to hear from you.

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Profile: Yoga & Wellbeing with Emma

Hello again! One thing is certain: life can be stressful, and often we don't help ourselves. That's where Emma says she can come in, to help us reconnect with ourselves and one another.

Business owner: Emma Horwill

Trading name: Yoga & Wellbeing with Emma

Address: Fern Close, Goring

Phone: 07990 064812

Online: <https://yogawithemma.org.uk>

How did you get to where you are today?

I've dabbled with yoga on and off since my twenties and I was always seeking something spiritual, which I never found in religion. But then I got deeper into yoga after I had my daughter and I think everything caught up with me from having a difficult, traumatic childhood – a lot of loss in my life. I had to process a lot of 'stuff' in my thirties and forties. It became my one hour of 'me time' each week. Realising the benefits, it all stemmed from there. Then somebody I knew, who was a really good yoga teacher and used to be a monk, said to me: 'What are you going to do when your daughter goes to school?' and I said: 'I don't know' and he said: 'You'd make a really good yoga teacher.' So I basically went home, went on Google and found a course in Milton Keynes to teach kids and family yoga. Then I got hooked and was teaching after school kids clubs in schools and family yoga. That went down a storm and it was really good for bonding the families coming along. More recently I have opened up a therapy room in our home, where I offer Yoga 121s, Indian Head Massage and Reiki.

What's something you love about your business?

I definitely think it's helping people, especially starting with kids. It was something I could give back and help children (and now adults). It is something I wished I'd had as a child. Obviously then it was the 70s and 80s, yoga was quite niche in the UK. I love the fact that I can help people find their own way but when I get to know my students, I share bits and pieces or share things that work for me. I'm not perfect, I get days when I feel stressed, but everyone's on a journey and you're always learning. I love helping people go on and find their own path.

What advice would you give to people starting their own business?

Stick with what your heart's telling you, and your passion. Don't give up because there's so many other people doing the same thing as you, whether it's yoga, running a cafe, reflexology, whatever, you've got to just stay in your own bubble and stay focused. Use that drive to keep going for your own dream. It's really easy to look around and go: 'I can't do that because they're doing it' or 'I don't want to tread on someone else's toes', but I've found that didn't work for me because the more conscientious I was of others, it just stunted my growth. If you stay on your true path, you can't go far wrong, because you'll attract the people you're meant to attract and vice versa. You find them and they find you because



you've been true to your heart and been open and honest about who you are.

What's one yoga position to start the day with?

If you do one thing every day, every morning or every night – simple is key, it's Cat-Cow. It's two poses really so it's a bit of a cheat! On your hands and knees in tabletop position, dip your belly down toward the floor so your bottom and your head stick up as you breathe in (into Cow). Then you arch your spine as you breathe out (Cat). Then breathe in back to Cow, then breathe out back to Cat. Just do that for, I'd say, ten breaths. It's great in the morning for waking your spine up and it's great in the evening with your eyes closed and a scented candle or low lighting. It really does wind you down ready for bed. It's such a widespread issue, stress and sleep. Gentle, simple movements and breath can help with that. You don't have to be standing on your head or anything!

Is your heart in business? Do you think that your business helps others? Contact Dan on 07877 425814 or email dpgpotts@gmail.com

Garden business blooming into bigger space

After running The Garden Design Company for 30 years, essentially from his house on Manor Road, Rob Jones has finally admitted he's 'outgrown' the space. He has now opened his flagship store on the High Street, next to Goring Diner. As well as being a stylish new hub for his blooming business operations, the former hairdressers has been partitioned with a glass screen separating the much-needed new office space and client lounge area with a retail space in front. Selling peat-free houseplants (grown in Chichester), interior furnishings and more, Rob welcomes anyone to drop in and have a browse, as well as be inspired by the array of garden materials and cladding. He tells GGN there are plenty of events planned for later in the year and their offering is changing all the time. The store and office are now open for business Tuesday-Saturday 10am-4pm.

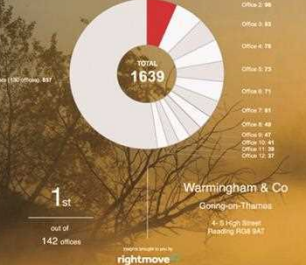
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Takeaway taking off

Six months on from opening their takeaway in the arcade, *GGN* checked in with the owner of Thai Lotus. Renu Lofthouse reflected on how business is going: 'It's going well, we've had positive reviews.' She says they now have another member of staff helping out on Fridays and Saturdays, while her husband Rob has taken a step back to look after their baby. She says they've learnt how to manage time better since they first opened: 'People were waiting a lot.' Now she says that '99.9% of the time' they're keeping up with all the orders. A new menu will be coming for the summer, including a selection of Thai iced teas, from green tea to lemongrass, mint and honey.

A special message from Goring Library to all its younger readers aged 5-12



Kate enjoys the 'proper' sofa and welcomes you to find new books in the Library this summer!

It's almost time for the Summer Reading Challenge which starts on 5 July. See how many books you can read and how many stickers you can collect. You might even get a medal and a chance to win a goodie bag. If you're very young (up to 4 years old) you can still take part and collect your own stickers to keep in your special folder.

What's this year's Challenge about? Well, it's called the Story Garden and is all about adventure, imagination and being outside as much as you can (and who doesn't want to do that?). There are a host of interesting new characters to meet and there will be new books to choose from. There will be trails around the library (like a footprint trail and a British wildlife trail...maybe a wildcat to find or even a lynx) and lots of crafts and other events to enjoy. These include a special Lego workshop, making a mini-garden, yoga and an arts workshop. All the events are free but a few have to be booked – for all the info please see www.fogl-oxon.co.uk

The library is very pleased that, since it was re-decorated, there is more space for Junior books – so you have lots more to explore and borrow, whether they are books of facts and knowledge, picture books or (of course) story books. There is even a proper sofa for you to sit on – no grown-ups allowed unless you bring them with you! (Tho' Kate is always allowed to read a book there when she can...)

If you're not sure which books to choose, there is always help in the Library from Kate (you could ask her for her top recommendations) and from the volunteers who work there. So do come in and have a look around, sign up for the Challenge and see if you can read the library out of books!

A busy month in Goring Library

May was a busy month for the library. Although, quite frankly, quiet months in the library are few and far between!

We were very lucky to collaborate with the Local History Society to mark local history month. Janet Hurst put together a display for our noticeboard entitled 'On the Move in Goring & Streatley' and worked with Alan Winchcomb to plan a walk around the villages investigating transport developments in the Goring Gap throughout the years. Alan ended the walk back at the library, so that everyone could enjoy the refreshments on offer. Andy Smith had also put together a fiendish transport-related quiz which got everyone talking and was an excellent finish to a fun afternoon. Later in the month we hosted a helpful session, run by Astons Online, explaining BT's switchover to Digital Voice. We had a steady stream of visitors throughout the morning and hopefully everyone's questions were answered.

Half-term week was devoted to celebrating Elmer the Patchwork Elephant's birthday, with lots of crafts and cunningly devised elephant themed activities. Everyone was invited to contribute a patch to the Elmer collage on display and there were other fun crafts and workshops including making a safari park enclosure for an animal of your choice out of Lego.

Take a look at our website www.fogl-oxon.co.uk to find out what events we've got coming up over the summer.

Jacqui Gray
Chair, Friends of Goring Library



*Above, Local History Month walk explores transport history in the two villages.
Below, spot the difference!*



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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

Dangerous corner

Dear Editor—As the owner of the house on the corner of Cleeve Road and Glebe Ride, I was interested in B Barker's letter in May *GGN* regarding parking on Cleeve Road, and I thought I'd comment further.

We have been here for over 25 years, and leaving our property has always been a risky exercise with cars blindly sweeping round the corner from Glebe Ride. The natural action as a driver is to be glancing right to see if any cars are coming from the High Street as you make the left turn.

With that in mind, and knowing about the imminent relaxation of the parking restrictions on Cleeve Road, we submitted a planning application to change the access to our property to Glebe Ride, the only reasoning being how dangerous the corner was, and would become.

After attending the Goring Parish Council Planning Committee to present the argument, the committee unanimously decided to object to the application explicitly stating the junction was not dangerous.

So, what we now have is people using the parking as intended, and as well as the two or three cars parked legally who are already too close to the junction, in busy periods we consistently see cars adding themselves to the parked line and spilling over the corner itself, which causes chaos.

We also have an increasing number of drivers who routinely sound their horn as they come down Cleeve Road towards the village, as they have been forced to the wrong side of the road approaching a blind corner.

The junction is dangerous, and there is going to be an accident.

Paul Tollet

See article on P20

Safe countryside access for cyclists and walkers

Dear Editor—The assertion in May's *GGN* that 'places to learn to cycle in Goring and Streatley are limited' is surprising, given our numerous open spaces and quiet streets. Steve Rock's article on P22-33 titled *Unlocking access in the Gap – on two wheels* is no doubt relevant to busy urban environments. But as a keen cyclist and walker, I believe it doesn't ring true in our rural setting.

The fact is that 'the Goring Gap is a lovely area for cycling, with lots of quiet roads and bridleways'. We are lucky to have such excellent routes for cycling and walking. Tampering with this network is I believe unnecessary and risks unintended consequences. And the baffling contention that our children are a 'marginalised group' flies in the face of great work done for youngsters in our schools, sports clubs, churches and elsewhere.

The article suggests changing some footpaths to bridleways, so they are legal for cycling. I believe this would lead to contention for space, damage to path surface, loss of tranquillity and increased danger to pedestrians. Walking a bike for a few yards or detouring onto a quiet road are often acceptable alternatives, such as on the footpath at the top of Lockstile Way, which Steve

Rock seeks to re-designate as a bridleway. His proposed cycling through-route from Goring to Wallingford hints at fundamental change to the footpaths between South Stoke and Little Stoke, which are such a delight for walkers. The existing alternative for cyclists – a 1km section of the B4009 on an open road with excellent sight-lines – is not I think the unsafe route depicted.

As cyclists we already have access to all the bridleways, byways and quiet roads. Degrading our access rights as walkers by reclassifying footpaths is not the answer. Walking is a highly beneficial activity for children and adults of all ages, the most accessible and natural of all outdoor pursuits.

So please don't make ineffective changes to our rural rights of way when that really isn't necessary; much better to invest in road use education and pothole fixing instead.

Ivor Coleman

Fishing plea

Dear Editor—I read with interest the article about the fisherman restocking the river. I remember during lockdown when the water was so clear, how beautiful the fish looked gliding gracefully in the watery world. The RSPCA believes fish have the capacity to feel pain and suffer, and that their welfare should be prioritized. I think the act of hooking them by their throat to take them out of the water which they need to breathe and displacing their scales by handling them, causes suffering. They do not have eyelids so they can see what is happening. They do not have voices to tell of their distress. As fish have so many predators and pollution as well to cope with under the surface, I wondered if the fisherman having restored these amazing creatures to the river would be so kind as to leave them in peace there and find other leisure pursuits in keeping with their considerable talents and great knowledge. Perhaps biking, boating, boarding or walking The Thames Path. Thank you.

Anne Moody

A love letter to the Gap

Dear Editor—As a Southern California woman who has found in Goring my ultimate British destination, I want to thank those people and institutions which make my visits a dream-come-true. Six years ago, while searching for a place to base a Thames Valley walking holiday, I came across a colourful and inviting video about the village on YouTube. It was all about Goring in Bloom and the multiple awards the community had won. Looking closer, I found the connections from Heathrow Airport via the Rail Air Link and GWR made it easy to reach, important for a senior travelling solo. With varied accommodation, grocers, a pharmacy, an ATM and fun shops it had everything I needed.

The flowers may have drawn me here, but I discovered the real treasure in Goring is its people.

This May was my third trip to Goring, in conjunction with the Chilterns Walking Festival events. I've made dear friends who share their homes and gardens with

me. The Goring Gap online copy keeps me current with what's happening. In YouTube videos, I've followed the beautification of the rail station, watching the mural being created and the flower beds being transformed by volunteers. What a pleasure to see them in person!

Goring always has more to enjoy and explore than I can possibly realise, but I intend to keep returning and hope to bring my family to the Goring Gap Festival in 2026. Maybe I'll see you there...

With sincere thanks.

Barbara Vent bbvent@cox.net

Thank you!

The donations during Christian Aid Week this year amounted to £2,604. Thank you to all of you who donated so generously. Thanks are also due to all those

who prepared the envelopes for distribution, to those who delivered envelopes in Goring and Streatley and to Ann Moody and her team for once again providing the delicious Ploughman's Lunch at Oriel House. We are grateful as always to Inspiration and Westholme Stores for their kind co-operation in receiving the donation envelopes every year.

Your donations enable Christian Aid to make a difference to people in parts of the world like Guatemala, where climate change is hitting hardest. Christian Aid works with its local partner Congcoop to provide specialist training for farmers in the region. They are learning how to combine ancient and modern agricultural methods to cultivate seeds that are more resilient to extreme conditions.

This year we were not able to deliver envelopes to some roads so if you didn't get an envelope and would still like to contribute, you can do so at: caweek.org

The Christian Aid Team



Goring Parkinsons Group

At our last meeting we listened to some intriguing tips on how to deal with the effects of Parkinsons disease from Raj Senniappan, the Managing Director of 'Therapies on Thames' who also brought along a representative from 'Rollz' to demonstrated the types of 'rollators' now available. I think all of us would now avoid using a Zimmer frame, which was once the go-to first option.

Our Group was originally started by 'The Hub' in the Arcade but since its closure we have found a new home in Goring Social Club and have been operating independently for some months now. Our thanks to the Social Club for their hospitality to us.

We are now fully independent of 'The Hub' and meet on the second Tuesday of each month at 10.30am. Our meetings include a speaker, where possible and a chance to meet compatriots over a cup of coffee.

If you have Parkinsons, or indeed care for someone with this illness, you will be made welcome. Further details are available from James or Hilary Dobson on: [01491 872063](tel:01491872063)

Extended street parking in Goring

Following the changes to street parking provision that came into effect in April, we have received some feedback from residents voicing concern about the proximity of some of the new spaces to junctions and the danger they feel this poses. Most concerns relate to the parking bay in Cleeve Road, adjacent to the junction with Glebe Ride, but other concerns have been raised about access to driveways adjoining the new bays.



The new parking provision followed an initial village consultation that identified both the need for further parking restrictions and the need to provide additional parking spaces for shoppers and people using local businesses in the village. Outline proposals were submitted by the Parish Council to Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) as the council responsible for highways, who then drew up detailed plans, reflecting those proposals, which were subject to full public consultation last year and subsequently put into place with amendments this year.

As a Parish Council we listen to the concerns of our residents, but it is not in our power to make changes to the parking bays. This is the remit of OCC as the highway authority. Whilst we do pass on concerns to the Highways department of OCC, it is important that if you have concerns you do contact OCC directly. You can do so using this email: cpeenquiries@oxfordshire.gov.uk The Parish Council's Travel and Transport Committee is actively monitoring residents' concerns and will be considering the need for a request for changes from the Parish Council.

Whilst we believe that on balance the changes have a positive impact on Goring, if you see an example of a dangerous situation caused by parking bays, please do report it to the Highway Authority at Oxfordshire County Council. Instances of illegal parking can be reported at <https://service.oxfordshire.gov.uk/reportparkedvehicle> Photos are always helpful.

Mike Harper

Assistant Clerk, Goring-on-Thames Parish Council

Correction

In the article on P22-23 in May GGN an incorrect photo was used on P23. Sharp eyed readers may have noticed that the right-hand photo on P23 was not of the Manor Road to Gatehampton track, but of a cycle track in Hermitage. We apologise for this error. To see the correct photo within the complete article, please use the QR code to go to <https://goringgapcycling.co.uk>



A floating part of the Gap's history for sale

Regular GGN readers will have heard of Sam Saunders and seen the blue plaque on his former boathouse and showroom by the river in Goring, which was recently vacated by Royal Mail. He was the eldest son of Cornelius Saunders, who started building and hiring boats at the Swan Inn at Streatley around 1870. As his sons grew old enough, they joined their father's business, which due to the Thames boating boom from the 1880s onwards, expanded rapidly from making punts and skiffs to building steam, electric and petrol driven launches and many other types of craft. Leaving his younger brother Arthur at the Swan, Sam Saunders moved across the river and in 1894 constructed the boathouse complex that survives today. Eventually he built another boatyard upriver known as the Springfield Works (now Withymead Nature Reserve) before moving to the Isle of Wight in 1900 where he made aircraft as well as boats.

In the early days of the boatyard at the Swan, Saunders built a skiff for two brothers who lived at Coombe End Farm, near the river on the south side of Whitchurch on Thames. Joseph and Rickman Godlee were keen oarsmen and members of the famous Henley Leander Club. They named the skiff *GG* after their name. Maybe they spotted the pun with 'gee-gee', the slang for racehorse, which began to be used around this time. Boat names with a pun are still popular.



The *GG* was built in 1873 and is a Thames outriggered skiff built from Honduras mahogany on oak frames. The brothers used to row this very beautiful Thames skiff to church at Pangbourne on Sundays, and so the *GG* included a special covered-in section at the back to keep their prayer books dry. There is a delightful tradition that Kenneth Grahame, a Pangbourne resident, based Ratty and Mole on the brothers when he wrote *The Wind in the Willows* in 1908.

The skiff has been owned by their family throughout its life. The parents of the brothers were Rickman Godlee, a barrister, and Mary Lister (the sister of Joseph Lister, who pioneered antiseptic surgery). Rickman the younger became a distinguished surgeon, Sir Rickman John Godlee Bt KCVO PRCS (1849-1925). The brothers owned the *GG* until they died, when it passed to cousins in the Lister family in Purley-on-Thames. The cousins passed it to the care of their granddaughter, Sybil Pryor. The *GG* spent some years in Hobbs' boathouse at Pangbourne until Sybil moved back to Purley in 1969. She then housed it and kept it maintained and latterly the *GG* was normally moored at Mapledurham lock where it was used by family members.

The *GG* was given a major overhaul in about 2011, but the boat builder lost the elegant mahogany hatch at the stern and replaced it with marine plywood. In 2014 Sybil's cousin, Dr David Lister, took over housing the skiff at Bramshill and in early 2015 the owners arranged for Henwood & Dean of Henley to give the *GG* a thorough refurbishment.

Now over 150 years old, the *GG* has recently been restored to a high standard and is for sale at £5,750. It would be marvellous if the *GG* could return to the Thames locally. For more information, please contact Will Howard on [07896 993573](tel:07896993573).



Will Howard Saunders Swan boatworks

Photo: Goring Gap Local History Society

A sign of the times?

Goring village sign is looking a little worse for wear. 13 years on from its unveiling at Queen Elizabeth II's Diamond Jubilee celebrations, the local artist who designed the sign has spoken to the *Goring Gap News*.

Carol Reynoldson reflected on her involvement: 'It was a really lovely project. Having grown up here and been so lucky to have done so, when the sign was installed, it was such a vibrant celebration of the village and all its beauty. There was such a turnout!' She explained how people packed onto the Rectory Gardens on 3 June 2012. Deputy Lord-Lieutenant Paul Bradstock attended, along with Norman Radley, who was instrumental in its creation and unveiled the sign to the applause of attendees. She added, 'It's such a focal point and really portrayed the vibrancy of the village.' She said it would be lovely if the sign could get some attention.

The story of the sign goes way back, before 2012. It was partly inspired by Goring winning the South of England Village of the Year award in 2009-10, as well as being inspired by the history of village signs, which began in the early 20th Century. King Edward VII commissioned signs for the Sandringham estate to help foster community spirit and identity.

The village sign committee consisted of Paul Bradstock (chair), Norman Radley, David Boyd, Mary Carr, Ron Bridle and Fiona Sutcliffe. A request was published in *GGN* in July 2010 and Carol was one of four local artists to respond. They each received the brief for a 'pub-style' sign, but Carol was the only artist to meet the deadline. From then on she worked with the committee to refine the concept. The finished design symbolises the variety of life and heritage here in the village, from the red kite to the River Thames, the Ridgeway to Goring Mill.

A time capsule was buried beneath the sign. Among other things it contained an invitation to the famous street party (the longest in the country, despite the weather), as well as an unopened bottle of Goring & Streatley Jubilee Ale.

Mary Carr reflected on the project, telling *GGN* she remembered how tall and heavy the sign was to erect and all the cement that was needed for Butler and Proctor to fill the hole they had dug. There were also the logistics of illuminating the sign with electric light. This was carried out by electrician Colin Silvester and connected to Goring Village Hall thanks to the generosity of then chair, Alan Matthews. The engineering team ensured the sign was structurally stable. It consisted of John Caledine, David Browne and Roy Warner.

The village sign was donated to the Parish Council by the *GGN* Association. Former chair Paul Bradstock spoke to *GGN*. He said the sign is a visible record of the voluntary efforts of so many members of the community to produce and distribute the *Goring Gap News* over many years. Mary Carr said, 'The sign was given to the village with the intention it would be here for perpetuity.' However, she explained: 'Things always need to be maintained otherwise they fall apart.'

Fellow committee member Ron Bridle expanded: 'It's an important symbol of what we are. That picture embodies a lot of our sense of place, our traditions, and the atmosphere of the village. We have a beautiful village and a well-organised community; it's a wonderful place to live.' He emphasised that there are some things we can't control in the world but that we do have the power to take care of what is immediately around us.



Councillor Toby Thurston, chair of the Goring-on-Thames Parish Council Places and Assets working group, agrees the Jubilee sign could do with some TLC.

Photos: Dan Gordon-Potts



Now a memory: the unveiling ceremony, 13 years ago.

Photo: Adrian Turner



The final approved casting of the village sign design from 2012. Spot the local landmarks and things of interest!

Photo: Ron Bridle

The sign frame and post are made of English oak and were crafted by carpenter Gordon Kent. Gordon told *GGN*: 'I love the actual design of the sign itself. Our woodwork was just to elevate that to a suitable height and frame it.' He says that the current appearance of the sign is 'totally natural' and reassures readers that it is still structurally sound: 'The core of oak gets stronger as it gets older'. However, he agreed that the wood has naturally weathered and said there are options if people are concerned about its appearance. One is simply leaving it as it is and embracing its look. Option two involves doing some light exterior cleaning with specialist detergent. And option three involves sanding the entire frame and post, applying exterior oils and a stain to create a more uniform appearance.

Gordon noticed a lower corner of the sign is looking particularly weather-beaten, so this third option, involving extensive sanding and re-staining, could allow for the piecemeal replacement of that beam to be carried out without the final result being too obvious. However, this option would be the most invasive to the existing aged wood, as well as time-consuming and expensive.

The sign itself is made of polyurethane, and the details and reliefs were hand-painted by company Signs of the Times in Tebworth, Bedfordshire. It remains in fairly good condition although it could do with a careful clean to brighten it up. The company told *GGN* it would be best using just soapy water and nothing abrasive.

Jeremy Spring, chairman of the *GGN* Association said he would be open to supporting this initiative to maintain the sign, saying that he would happily raise it at the next committee meeting.

Goring Parish Councillor Toby Thurston spoke to *GGN* and agreed the sign was an important community asset: 'It's a nice memory of the great time that 2012 was. It's also in the village centre, by St Thomas' church and Goring Village Hall, and it's a focal point for tourists and visitors. We take it seriously.'

If you love the village and would like to get involved in maintaining the village sign, email the Parish Council Clerk at: clerk@goringparishcouncil.gov.uk

Dan Gordon-Potts



The GAP Festival – share the joy of your garden

Open Gardens was a huge success in 2022 and raised funds for the Gap Festival and for charities chosen by the garden owners. After a break in 2024, we will again be featuring the Open Gardens in the programme for next year's GAP Festival in June 2026. The date for the Open Gardens has been provisionally booked for Saturday 20 June 2026.

We are now seeking owners who would like to open their gardens this time next year. The garden can be of any size: small courtyards, front gardens, allotments, as well as larger gardens. The only criteria are that they are loved by you and are interesting. The garden does not have to be an RHS show garden, just enjoyable to see as part of the walk around the Gap visiting gardens. Hopefully it will be fun for owners as well.

Open Gardens would not be complete without tea and cake and the opportunity to raise money for

your own favourite charity, although this is optional of course.

If you are interested in being part of the Gap Festival and would like to open your garden, please get in touch with Amanda Heron for more information at: opengardens@gapfestival.org

Amanda Heron



The Arts Society Goring visit to North Wales

After an early morning start on Sunday 13 April, the 29 passengers on board a smart new coach bound for North Wales were looking forward to visiting Chillington Hall, a private family home in Staffordshire where the Giffard family has resided for 800 years. The present house is Grade 1 listed Georgian, with fascinating interiors, art and artefacts highlighted by our local guides - and a delicious ploughman's lunch served by the lady of the manor in elegant surroundings. There was then time to wander the gardens originally laid out by Capability Brown, enjoying magnificent magnolias and beautiful spring blossom trees. However, only five minutes after we left, the coach suddenly lost power on a mini

roundabout in a nearby village. At least we were able to disembark, explore the village and find a hospitable pub for tea! After three hours a replacement coach arrived and we resumed our journey to Caernarfon arriving at 9pm, just before the deadline for having the dinner we had chosen via mobile phone menu. We celebrated with wine on every table!

Next morning, we departed for Plas Cadnant Hidden Gardens. These have been lovingly and energetically restored by the current owner over the last 30 years. A beautiful walled formal garden area with colourful herbaceous borders, lawns and a pool leads to a wooded valley, river and waterfall. Hundreds of azaleas, magnolias, bulbs and blossom were everywhere. A magical place and my favourite outing of the entire trip! Next, we visited NT Plas Newydd, located on the Menai Straits coastline. The main attraction in the house was the huge fantasy landscape mural by Rex Whistler, with a wealth of ingenious detail. Outside the tulip displays on the terraces were beautiful – and there was an ice-cream stall.

In the afternoon, we returned to Caernarfon to visit the castle but it was now raining and the castle was suitably gloomy, but there were interesting displays and climbing opportunities, with amazing views in the many towers.

Next morning we visited another Edward I castle in delightful Conwy, which had a much more welcoming atmosphere. After that we enjoyed a pleasant short walk to NT Plas Mawr townhouse. This small Elizabethan house is full of history, beautifully restored, and the audio guides were very entertaining. In the afternoon we travelled to NT Bodnant Gardens, to admire more magnolias, azaleas, rhododendrons, flowering bulbs and beautiful vistas.

On Wednesday 16 April, a morning trip to Plas Brondanw House and garden gave an interesting insight into the personality of Clough Williams Ellis, the architect who designed the Portmeirion village. Plas Brondanw house was his private home and has displays of Portmeirion fabrics, designs and pottery. The surrounding gardens feature topiary, stone walls, turquoise gates and spectacular mountain views. We travelled to a very wet Betws-y-Coed for lunch, then went to Gwydir castle and had a fascinating guided tour led by the current owner. Gwydir is one of the finest Tudor houses in Wales, but was in a state of dereliction until the current owners began an ongoing restoration project 30 years ago. They have even managed to recover the Tudor wooden panelling and fireplaces from the Metropolitan Museum in New York, in whose warehouse they had languished since the 1921 sale of the contents by the then owners.

On Maundy Thursday we checked out of our hotel and drove through beautiful mountain scenery in glorious sunshine to visit NT Powis castle, arriving around noon. Several castle rooms are undergoing rewiring and many of the interiors were rather dark but well worth exploring. The large formal gardens include Italianate terraces, huge yew tree hedges, clipped apple blossom trees and woodland paths with bluebells. We left at 2.30pm for the long drive back to Goring, arriving at 6pm. Luckily, most of the Easter Bank Holiday traffic was going the other way.

Many thanks to Andy, our wonderful Polish driver, and to Rosie for looking after us all so well. If you would like to know more about our local arts society, please look at www.theartsocietygoring.org.uk



Pat Parry

Goring Gap u3a

The Goring Gap u3a is part of a national organisation and with nearly 400 members, the Goring Gap u3a continues to thrive. Our membership is drawn from Goring and Streatley and the surrounding villages. The u3a philosophy is 'learn, laugh, live' and the aim of the organisation is to encourage retired and semi-retired people to learn new skills, explore new interests and to pass on the skills and knowledge they already have to other members. All of this within a framework of friendship and fun.

Our groups

With over 33 interest groups run by our members for our members, there is plenty to engage the mind. Our groups encompass languages, music, games, discussion, arts and crafts as well as more social groups. Group meetings are held in local facilities such as Goring Village Hall, Goring Community Centre and Storton Lodge, and many are held in members' homes.

Speaker meetings

As well as our group activities we hold a speaker meeting on the last Thursday of each month in Goring Village Hall, with coffee from 10.15am. Since the pandemic, we have presented hybrid meetings (meetings in person and also on Zoom) allowing members who are unable to get to the hall in person to enjoy our talks. All of this is thanks to our technical volunteers who set up and manage the equipment needed to do this. This year, we have heard about topics as diverse as *Medicinal and Poisonous plants*, *RAF Uxbridge Battle of Britain Bunker*, *Shaw House*, *Hidden Rivers of London* and *Mysteries and Conundrums*. Our next talk, to be held in August, will be about *The Golden Age of Radio*.

Socialising

Coffee mornings are held on the first Monday of the month at The Boathouse at The Swan at Streatley from 10am. Members drop in, purchase a drink and stay. This is a good opportunity to meet friends, new members and committee members; to share ideas and information about our groups or just to chat! These have proved to be very popular. We also hold summer and winter lunches in Goring Village Hall after the June and November monthly talks with excellent food and flowing wine.

For more information about Goring Gap u3a visit our website: www.goringgapu3a.org.uk where you can see details of future events and of our groups. On our Join page you can do just that for a small annual subscription of £13.50. If you have any questions, please contact Celia Barnshaw on chair@goringgapu3a.org.uk or 01491 872605.

Celia Barnshaw

News from the 2nd Goring & Streatley Scouts

Beavers collect litter

The 2nd Goring & Streatley Beaver Colony needed to carry out a 'community good deed' as part of their 'Helpful Beaver' badge. After discussion with the Parish Council, the Beavers agreed that they would litter pick Streatley Recreation Ground. So, armed with pickers, sacks and buckets and with great enthusiasm, the six teams, each consisting of three/four Beavers plus an adult supervisor, got to work. They gave the recreation ground a thorough clearing of any litter, as well as clearing the pathway leading from the recreation ground to the church.

Whilst the Beavers reported that the recreation ground was not found to have a lot of litter, they were disgusted by the number of cigarettes ends left by the seats. These ends are a very serious



A team of enthusiastic Beavers prepared for action

Photo: Hannah Callow



One of the hike tents being pitched

Photo: Karen Wake

danger to wildlife and suggest a disregard for the natural environment. Please take them home if you have to smoke.

Scouts prepare for their hike camp

The 2nd Goring & Streatley Scout Troop spent their meeting preparing for their forthcoming hike camp by practising pitching their hike tents in less than ten minutes. They managed to achieve this target. The previous meetings they practised cooking on Trangia stoves, which will be used for all cooking during the hike camp. They also practised correctly packing the rucksacks that they will need to carry.

David Cooksley

Group Scout Master, 2nd Goring & Streatley BBS Scout Group
[07789 938291](tel:07789938291)

Goring School science trip

On Wednesday 21 May, Nightingale class (year 5) and Ibis class (year 4) from Goring C of E Primary School went on an exciting trip to Winchester Science Centre.

Let's investigate!

After a long coach journey, we arrived and were eager to explore all the exhibits on offer. After dropping off our bags, Nightingale's first stop was to a workshop all about the James Webb Telescope. We explored the properties of light by first looking at the visible spectrum before moving to infrared and heat exchange. We also looked at what happens if we use diffraction to break light into its constituent parts, by wearing funny glasses.

Space adventure

Next, Nightingale class put their feet up and relaxed in the planetarium. Here we learnt all about our solar system. We explored the planets and the constellations that can be seen from Earth. The massive screen made us feel like we were flying through space.



Oscar

Photo: Ruth Cordle



Calla and Florie

Photo: Ruth Cordle

Exciting exhibits

After a brief pit-stop to have lunch, Nightingale spent the rest of the day in the exhibits. We learnt about sound and vibrations with the massive guitar as well as learning to spell our names using British Sign Language. Next, we explored space by looking at and experiencing the gravity wall and how heat gives off infrared light that makes amazing colours. A particular favourite was the space suit where each child could experience what it feels like to wear the right clothes for space exploration.

Ibis and Nightingale had a super day out, learning new things and applying what they already know from science lessons at school. Some children have even taken their parents back for a visit since.

Nightingale class

Glockenspiels for Streatley School

Streatley Primary School have been working closely with the Goring and Streatley Young Musicians Trust to improve their musical offering and enrich the existing musical curriculum for all pupils.

After several meetings we were delighted to be able to secure funding for fifteen new glockenspiels which, with wooden lids, soft beaters, and easy to open and close cases, are suitable for children of all ages to access and learn how to play. We are extremely grateful for the generous support of Goring and Streatley Young Musicians Trust, without which we would have been unable to supply these. We would also like to extend our gratitude to those generous local donors that make the work of this crucial charity possible. Children across all the key stages can now enjoy learning how to play in time to the music, different rhythms and combinations of notes and have a taste of the benefits of learning a musical instrument. We very much hope this inspires further children to take up music lessons, the benefits of which are proven across all areas of life.

In Foundation Stage in particular we have been enjoying learning scales, arpeggios and playing melodies alongside our favourite well-known nursery rhymes and songs.

We look forward to a continued partnership with the Trust and are very excited to see how our musical offer will develop thanks to their support, ultimately making music more accessible for all.



Learning to play the glockenspiel

Photo: Miss Davies

Miss Davies

Music Lead at Streatley Primary School

Council updates locals on 'reluctant' closure of Thames Path

The district council responsible for the closure of the Thames Path between The Close/Manor Road up to Friars Ford has expressed its apologies. To walkers, runners (and dogs alike), Elaine Cox, the Local Access Forum Secretary of West Berkshire District Council (WBDC), tells GGN: 'We're going as quickly as we can.' The section of path, which has been fenced off and officially closed as of 1 April, is in need of short (and long term) reinforcement to ensure that it remains safe for public use. Elaine says that the short-term plan will involve resurfacing and dealing with the worst sections where, as locals will know, the bank has collapsed due to flooding. This work is due to start soon, but they haven't yet secured all the funding necessary and don't have estimates of the total cost.



Despite wanting to reopen the footpath as soon as possible, safety is important and the council are aware that a long-term plan needs to be established. Elaine confirmed that these plans will be 'ecologically sensitive'. This means they will be doing something different to the familiar approach of using stone blocks held in place with wire meshing. This will take into account fluctuating water levels.

She says that one of the limits is funding: 'It's also just the processes we have. I know it's an inconvenience, but we've held off closing it for quite a while.' To ensure the project goes ahead it needs approval from the Environment Agency and contracted work needs to be compliant with procurement rules. However, Elaine wants to assure the public that the closure will result in a path better suited to future use, and will enhance the local area. The path should reopen by October, but longer-term plans may result in further closures.

Dan Gordon-Potts

WABC makes waves with new riverside home

After eight years of searching, Wallingford Accessible Boat Club (WABC) has finally dropped anchor in the heart of Wallingford town. The volunteer-led charity officially opened its permanent base at Riverside, Wallingford, in May and the new season is underway.

The grand opening was a proud moment for WABC, marked by a ribbon-cutting ceremony led by Club Chairman John Jenkins MBE, who called the moment 'a dream come true.'

'After years operating from temporary facilities in Benson, we finally have a home in central Wallingford. We're so grateful to SODC and all our incredible supporters – this wouldn't have been possible without them.'

The new accessible pontoon – specially designed for WABC's custom-built Wheelyboat, WOW-one, was officially declared open, creating a new gateway to the Thames for elderly and disabled passengers. With better visibility, improved facilities, and direct access to one of the most beautiful stretches of the Upper Thames, WABC expects to increase passenger numbers from 405 to over 500 this season.

'We're here for the long haul,' added John, 'We believe our unique wheelyboat service will become a vital part of promoting Wallingford as the incredible river town it is.'

For more information see www.wabc.org.uk

'Outstanding' achieved in Ofsted at Streatley Hill Pre-School

On 19 March 2025, Streatley Hill Pre-School welcomed an inspection team to evaluate its performance under the guidelines set by the Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted). The review assessed four key areas: quality of education, behaviour and attitudes, personal development and leadership and management. With an overall effectiveness rating of 'Outstanding' across all areas, the Pre-school has exceeded the previous inspection from 2019, labelled as 'Good'.

The report outlined a number of areas that the pre-school does well and which support the 'Outstanding' rating. The setting is highly ambitious for all children, including those who require additional support. The staff encourage a love of reading, offering books both indoors and outdoors, and allowing children to choose stories. Language skills are enhanced through discussion on focused topics. Healthy habits are embedded, with children learning to independently wash hands before eating and manage their own healthy snacks and pour their own drinks. The pre-school fosters a strong sense of community, engaging parents in activities and collaborating with local schools and care homes. Parents were overwhelmingly positive about the care and education provided. The leadership is reflective and continuously strives for improvement, for example through targeted staff training.

Congratulations to the Pre-school and all those involved!

The Pre-school is based on the Coombe in Streatley and provides care and education for children aged 2-4 years at the setting. For the full report, please see <https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/provider/16/ey420025>. If you would like to contact the pre-school, please email leadteacher@streatleyhillpreschool.com

Eleanor Coyle

GeoffreyCole^{CO}

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Running '100k in May' for PSP awareness

Progressive Supranuclear Palsy (PSP) is a condition many people have never heard of. To help change that I set myself the challenge of running '100k in May', in order to raise money for the charity PSPA (see www.pspassociation.org.uk)

PSP is a rare and progressive neurological condition that affects movement, balance, vision, speech and swallowing. It can make everyday tasks incredibly difficult and has a huge impact not just on the person diagnosed, but on their family too. My grandmother is living with PSP and over time it has affected her mobility, independence and ability to speak. My grandfather is now her main carer and I've seen firsthand how tough and exhausting that can be, but they stick by each other with their sense of humour still intact.

Before her diagnosis, none of us had heard of PSP – and it took several years of



uncertainty before we got any real answers. Support and information about the condition is still very limited, which is why raising awareness matters so much.

The PSPA charity offers information, support, and guidance to families affected by PSP and is campaigning for earlier diagnosis and better services. More people need to be aware of this condition and the challenges it brings and so the charity's work is vital.

I'm not a runner by nature, so running 100km in a month has been a real challenge. I remind myself how fortunate I am to be able to do it and I'm grateful that I can use it to help PSPA. I'm also extremely privileged to have such a gorgeous area to run in. As a relatively new member of the village, only moving here last September, it's been a great way to explore.

Although May is nearly over, my JustGiving page will stay open if anyone would like to support PSPA by donating via QR code below.

Thank you to everyone who's supported me and PSPA or taken time to learn more about PSP

Abigail Davies



Volunteers aged 60–80 needed for Asparagus Health Study

Hi, my name's Abi and I'm a PhD researcher at the University of Reading. I'm looking for volunteers aged 60 to 80 to take part in a study exploring the potential health benefits of asparagus stem extract (ETAS®). With dementia cases on the rise, I'm particularly interested in how natural supplements like ETAS® could help support memory, mood, sleep and overall brain health.

ETAS® has shown promise in improving daily functioning and reducing inflammation in the body. To take part, you'll need to be in good general health, a non-smoker, with no food allergies and not living with conditions such as diabetes or anaemia. The study involves two visits to the University of Reading campus, completing surveys and cognitive tasks, taking capsules and providing a blood sample. Participants will be compensated for their time.

If you're interested in getting involved or would like to know more, please contact me abigail.davies@pgcreading.ac or call +44 118 378 6801.

Abi Davies



Goring Carers Group

The Carers Group, which had run for many years before being run through the auspices of the Hub, has since The Hub's closure, been set up independently and now meet once a month in Goring Social Club. We are very grateful to them for their warm welcome.

We meet on the first Tuesday of each month at 10.30am and try to have a speaker, where possible. We also allow time for members to chat amongst themselves. As the saying goes, a problem shared is a problem halved especially when it comes with tea and biscuits. Again, a big thank you to Goring Social Club.

Our next meeting on Tuesday 1 July 2025 when we have Emma O'Conner from Cleeve Lodge Residential Home coming to talk on Neurological Disorders.

Anyone who is a carer, in whatever capacity, is very welcome to join us. For more information contact Hilary Dobson on 01491 872063.



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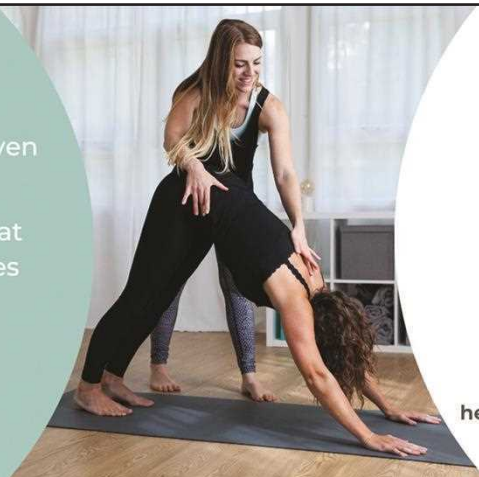
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LIVES REMEMBERED

James King 5.10.34 – 12.5.25

Jim King was a resident in the Goring area for over 90 years. He was born on 5 October 1934 at Grove Farm and was one of six children born to Samuel and Lillian King. At eight years old Jim and the family moved to Beech Farm, where Jim's dad was a woodman and Jim soon learnt the love of nature and the great outdoors.

Jim's first job was as a milkman at Dean's Farm, which included delivering milk to the village. In the winter he would wrap the milk to stop it freezing out the bottles and, in the summer, Jim would deliver very early so the householder could put it in the cold area before the sun would spoil it.

At 17 Jim did his national conscription in the army, gaining a free driving test for motor vehicles. He returned to his much-loved village to work at Spring Farm, again milking cows and tending to the horses and carts. This gave him the opportunity to be in a big film, *Tom Jones*, as a footman. In the summer months Jim was seen driving the large combine harvester through the local corn fields.

Jim spent many years also as a general builder for Hinds, enjoying the banter with his workmates.

Jim had three children and they all shared Jim's passion for animals and nature.

Although stoic to the end, Jim struggled with health, hence taking early retirement. This gave him time to spend with his family of six grandchildren and eleven great grandchildren – all loving his poems and life stories.

Jim will be remembered by all those who knew him for his compassion and caring lifestyle, never complaining and very grateful to see a friendly face.

Jim's wife Wendy would like to thank all those who travelled near and far for his Celebration of Life. Also the family wish to thank everyone who sent cards of condolence and for the warm welcome at Jim's wake at the Goring and Streatley Golf Club.



Ashley Hogsden 23.3.34 – 13.5.25

Ashley was born in Wallington, Surrey. He worked as an accountant and later moved into management in the entertainment industry. At one point he was Managing Director of Associated Leisure Amusements Ltd (Dreamland Amusement Park in Margate, Kent).

Ashley was married to Gwennyth in 1958. Throughout their almost 65 years of marriage, they moved house and locations several times.

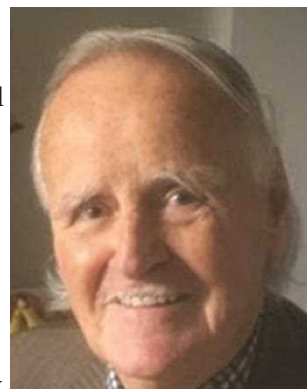
They had three children: Andrew, Yvette and Charlotte and seven grandchildren. Ashley had the delight of meeting his first great-grandchild in September last year.

Ashley and Gwennyth moved to Goring in April 2017. They had a lovely ground floor flat in Towse Court which met their needs perfectly. Both Ashley and Gwennyth were regular attendees at the Wednesday Lunch Club, Thursday Free Church Drop-In and the bi-monthly Macular Society Support Group. Ashley became a member of the Social Club playing snooker on a weekly basis.

Gwennyth passed away in September 2023 and shortly after, Ashley's health began to deteriorate. It became evident that round-the-clock care was necessary. Ashley spent some time at Cleeve Lodge and then moved to Coombe House, Streatley where he spent the remainder of his days.

He will be remembered for his wonderful selection of ties and many have commented on him being the 'perfect English gentleman'.

We will miss him dearly but are very grateful to those who cared for him. Ashley's funeral is taking place at Goring Free Church, where he attended weekly.



Philip John Turner 11.3.50 – 23.4.25

Dad, grandad, brother and friend to so many – Philip Turner died recently at the age of 75, after a period of illness borne with courage, humour and gratitude to all the medical teams caring for him.

He really made his life here in Goring and loved it very much, having lived here for over 40 years.

He was born in Blackburn, Lancashire, in March 1950 – the first child of John and Doreen Turner. He grew up in the north, with his family – then joined by younger brother Stuart – having moved to Chorley when he was at primary school. He went to Chorley Grammar School where he became head boy and was also a keen member of the football team. His spirit of adventure took him on trips with his best friend Andrew, including hitchhiking across Europe. With this sense of exploration, Philip took time out before university to travel to the British Virgin Islands with the VSO and also to Switzerland, where he spent time teaching English to the young son of a Swiss family he lived with.

A keen artist, he first went to Goldsmith's in London to study fine art, before making the move to Sheffield where he was



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LIVES REMEMBERED continued

one of the first accepted to study a brand-new course called Town Planning.

From here, he got his first job working in Manchester, where he lived with my mum Avril – they had met at school. He was then working in Wigan and living back in Chorley, where both my sister Rachael and I were born. When he got an opportunity to work at Reading City Council, he took the move down south – in 1982 – with his young family, where my sister and I would eventually go to Goring Primary School.

Three years later, when an opportunity arose for Philip to work at the University of the West Indies in Trinidad, lecturing in town planning, the Turner family made the move to the Caribbean. It would become evident that Philip was a natural at lecturing and the family also enjoyed all life had to offer there – weekends on the beach, watching the annual carnival and having Christmas in the sunshine in Tobago.

Upon returning to the UK in 1988, Philip took up work with Ernest Powdrill, who ran a town planning consultancy in Wallingford. From there, his career took him to Oxford City Council, where he made many lifelong friends and then on to Oxford Brookes University, where he would go on to become a senior lecturer and was well-regarded by students and staff alike. He really took pride not just in his lecturing – giving students real-world examples and going on field trips to make sure they'd be prepared for their first job – but also in the pastoral side, staying in touch with some students for years after graduation and going above and beyond to help them out.

Outside of work, Philip had always enjoyed the countryside – and especially trips to his beloved Lake District and Cornwall, as well as back up to Lancashire where he enjoyed walking in White Coppice and sometimes going back to Ewood Park to see his beloved Blackburn Rovers play.

He enjoyed travel and spent happy times in Portugal, Japan, the South of France and also Canada, where he visited with Oxford Brookes University and groups of students. He had plans for much more travel which were sadly not to be – we hope to go on trips in his memory instead.

As well as being a keen gardener, Philip also tended the lawns at St Thomas of Canterbury. He really loved being a part of village life. He was a member of so many clubs and groups that really brought him joy, including Probus and u3a, where he studied Italian and art history with a group of friends and he greatly enjoyed being a member of the Goring Gap Walking Group as well.

But key to him was family – his daughters and also his 12-year-old grandson Lazer, who he loved looking after, spending time and having fun with. He will be so missed by us all and always with us. He was such a kind and caring man, who as one of the many cards we received after his passing said, was always both interested and interesting.

Rachael, Lauren and Stuart would like to thank all of those who packed out St Thomas of Canterbury for dad's farewell and stayed to share stories at the Catherine Wheel afterwards. It really touched us to see how deeply people cared for him and how fond they were of him. Dad's ashes are being reunited with his parents in Lancashire but there will always be a part of him in Goring.

Goring-on-Thames Parish Council

The principal points of the Goring Parish Council meeting on 12 May are summarised below. The draft minutes are available at www.goringparishcouncil.gov.uk

- Sonia Lofthouse was unanimously elected as Chair for the next year
- Jim Emerson was elected as Vice-Chair
- Appointments were made to the following committees: Finance, Planning, Staffing, Travel and Transport, Public Spaces-Sheepcot, Public Spaces-Playgrounds
- Asset Register for the Parish Council was reviewed and approved
- It was noted that feedback about the virtual pedestrian lane and the new parking alterations in the village continued to be mostly positive.
- A budget was approved to increase bin emptying to three times a week between Easter and August Bank Holidays
- No Mow May was approved for appropriate locations. Options to continue a 'No Mow' approach beyond May are to be trialled
- Approval for budget for the relocation of PC defibrillator to the Community Centre
- Budget approved for a locked wooden bin store and bins for green waste at the Gardiner
- Following the success of the VE Day displays, approval granted for pennant flags on the bridge streetlights, subject to final approval from OCC

Next Meeting: Bellême Room, Goring Village Hall, 7.30pm, 9 June. See www.goringparishcouncil.gov.uk from for the agenda and draft minutes when available.

Streatley Parish Council –

12/5/2025

The principal points of the Parish Council meeting above are summarised below. The official minutes can be seen at www.streatley.org or by contacting the Clerk at clerk@streatley.org

Planning applications

25/01030/HOUSE – 3 Stable Cottages Wallingford Road Streatley Reading RG8 9JX. Alterations and extension. Consultation: Fri 30 May 2025.

Decisions by WBC

24/02816/FUL - Bower Farm Bower Road Aldworth Reading RG8 9TR.

The construction of a building to cover the existing cattle handling yard and cover/roof between two permitted buildings. Council do not object. Approved 29/4/2025.

25/00218/LBC - Ridgeway House Aldworth Road Streatley Reading RG8 9RF. To replace one rotten window and frame which are both beyond repair. Council do not object. Refused 23/4/2025.

Next meeting

Next Council meeting: Monday 9 June 2025 at 7.50pm in the Morrell Room See www.streatley.org for the agenda/minutes when available.



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Hairy Legs a stunning success in the spring sunshine

The Hairy Legs Challenge on Sunday 11 May 2025 saw glorious sunshine and beautiful blue skies with temperatures of an amazing 22 degrees. It was the perfect family day out.

We had 159 Little Legs runners, 44 adult runners doing two loops of the Hairy Legs course, 27 Teenage Kicks and 51 teams doing a loop each too!

The day kicked off with Lucy Harley from the Kincroft Academy of Dance leading a lively warm-up session that really got the Little Legs moving and ready for action. We were delighted to have firefighters Sean Absolom, Keith Avery, Chris Battye, Mark Nitsch and Lotti Cargen from Goring Fire Station on

Blue skies, blue shirts. Is 22 degrees the perfect temperature for a run?

hand to officially start the races. Despite being on call and ready to respond to emergencies, they were able to support our community event – a testament to their dedication both to public service and local causes.

The youngest competitors took centre stage first, with Little Legs 1 (School years Reception to 3) starting their race at 10am, followed by Little Legs 2 (School years 4-6). Proud parents cheered on their determined young runners navigating the infamous 'circle of doom', tyres, tarpaulin tunnel and hay bales.

The spotlight then turned to the adult races – Hairy Legs, Relays and Teenage Kicks. This year's adult male race was won by Jonty De La Harpe with an impressive time of 47:33. While not quite breaking the course record, this was an improvement on last year's winning result. The female race saw Lucia Coffey cross the line first with an excellent time of 1:01:17, demonstrating the high calibre of competition across all categories.

Once all races were completed, runners and spectators made their way to the Catherine Wheel pub to continue the celebrations with well-deserved burgers and drinks. Special thanks go to Dan, Kat and Vanessa for looking after everyone so wonderfully and for generously sponsoring the after-party – the perfect way to round off another successful Hairy Legs event.

Reflecting on the event, Madeleine Bastawrous, Goring resident and Hairy Legs runner said:

'Hairy Legs is such a brilliant family run, something for everyone with a wonderful community atmosphere and beautiful route. We are a family of five and have run in various categories from couples to parent and teen or the full two laps, for the kids they've done all the Hairy Legs 1+2 depending on their ages. On the morning of the run, the infamous Hairy Legs t-shirt colour changes each year and its colour prediction is always the pre-run breakfast topic of conversation – I think over the years we've nearly collected a rainbow!

'Definitely our favourite thing about Hairy Legs as a family is how it brings together the whole community, brilliantly organised and lots of other activities between races, even better that all the funds raised goes straight to both our primary

Continued on P37



A string of small people about to sprint from the starting line.

All pictures courtesy of Chris Nicholson, Car 19 UK

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schools in Goring and Streatley. The kids love seeing their friends and running together and there really is a loop for everyone whatever age or ability and of course the great pre-run practice sessions for kids and adults. It's much more than a cross country run one Sunday morning in May.'

An event like this isn't possible without support. We have many people to thank!

Thanks to several wonderful local businesses who sponsored us – Warmingham & Co, Clarity Leadership Ltd, The SUP Life, Coppa Club – Swan at Streatley, Bodyset, Cranford School, Humidity Solutions, Simple Human, Mirimar Communications, Field Seymour Parkes.

Thanks to our vendor village participants: Climbing wall from 270 Climbing, The Kinicroft Academy of Dance, Jo Pereira from Functional Physio. Massive thanks to Chris from Car 19 UK for taking the photos on the day and Matt from Airnecessity for the drone filming. Big love to James Hanson – our brilliant announcer who kept the energy high all day long. Loved this year's Mexican wave! As always, the marshals and helpers were the unsung heroes of the day of which we had over 50! A big thank you goes out to you.

All proceeds from the day go towards supporting two local schools – Goring Church of England Primary School and Streatley Church of England Primary School. Both schools received an amazing £2570 each! This will go towards much needed sporting equipment, fostering the growth and development of our children.

The 2025 winners of the categories were as follows:

Little Legs 1 Boys 1 st Albie Burr 3:43.0, 2 nd George Wood 3:43.6, 3 rd Jack Wright 3:44.4	Teenage Kicks 1 Boys Matthew Street 00:27:03	Old Crumblie Female Yasmin Webb 1:19.33.9
Little Legs 1 Girls 1 st Bella Dearn 3:36.7, 2 nd Livy Collins 3:40.7, 3 rd Anwen Mace 3:45.3	Teenage Kicks 2 Boys Josh Sudbury 00:24:11	Couples Team Team Crowther 59:47.8
Little Legs 2 Boys 1 st Elliot Parsley 6:00.9, 2 nd Harry Woolfall 6:04.8, 3 rd Bryn Griffiths 6:06.3	Teenage Kicks 1 Girls Genny Ellis 00:30:09	Open Relay Jumping Jills 54:30.8
Little Legs 2 Girls 1 st Martha Sudbury 6:22.6, 2 nd Elena Bastawrous 6:41.1, 3 rd Isabel Procter 7:03.9	Teenage Kicks 2 Girls Holly Curtayne 00:30:56	Parent Teen Relay The Wolf and Panther 56:19.5
	Hairy Legs Male Jonty De La Harpe 47:33.2	Fancy Dress Winner Maud Elsome
	Hairy Legs Female Lucia Coffey 1:01:17	
	Old Crumblie Male Philip Woolfall 52:55.8	

We look forward to seeing you all at the next Hairy Legs Challenge on Sunday 10 May 2026.

If you are interested in taking part next year or volunteering, please follow us on Facebook: [hairylegschallenge](#) and Instagram: [hairylegsgoring](#) or visit: www.hairylegs.net

Lotte, Kelly, Jon, Caroline, Bev – Hairy Legs Committee

Croquet and Bowls club update

Many of our members regularly played croquet during the long cold winter, but recently the weather has been more inviting. Our first tournament of the year, on Sunday 4 May, was a very close contest but congratulations go to John Bayley and Giles Wade for winning the event.

We are looking forward to moving into the pavilion, and having more tournaments and inter-club matches in the coming months.

Regular croquet sessions (weather permitting and subject to lawn maintenance) are Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 10am, and Friday and Saturday afternoons from 2pm.

As always, we welcome anyone wanting to experience the skills and tactics of croquet to 'have a go'. Contact Jim Bartlett at jimbartlett1@aol.com

Bowls

Lawn bowls is only played in the spring and summer, usually from mid April to mid September, and then when weather permitting. Sadly, it was quite a wet summer last year, so the number of days we could play was limited.

However, we have high hopes for this season and we have now started to play again on Tuesday afternoons. Many people have talked about maybe giving it a try and now is a perfect time. Equipment will be provided, just turn up at the Green on any Tuesday afternoon at 2pm. If Tuesdays are not convenient, please get in touch to arrange an alternative time. Contact Jackie French at jackiefrench1950@gmail.com

Taster sessions and subscriptions

We offer two free taster sessions for croquet/bowls with absolutely no obligation to join – you just need flat-soled footwear please. However, if you are interested to join, our subscription rates this year are £40 for just bowls, and £80 for croquet and bowls.

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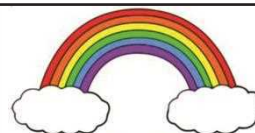
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FORTHCOMING EVENTS

David Slarks ggn diary@gmail.com

GORING AND STREATLEY STARTER BAND END OF TERM SUMMER CONCERT

Sunday 13 July, 4pm Goring Village Hall. Complete your Sunday afternoon by supporting the GSCB starter band's traditional end of term celebration of musical happiness, conducted by their Musical Director, Claire Salmon. It's only an hour, and will comprise a great mix of tunes all carefully selected to put a huge smile on your face ranging from Disney's *Bare Necessities* to *How to Train Your Dragon* via some of the finest 70s and 80s pop-tunes for those of a certain age ... Intrigued? Then come along – you will not be disappointed! Tickets just £25 (adults) and £1 (children) available via www.goringandstreatleyband.co.uk/starter-band

ORGAN RECITAL, ST THOMAS'

Sunday 13 July, 7pm at St Thomas' Church. An organ recital by Bryan Almond. Bryan is St Thomas' Organist Emeritus as well as holding the post of Organist and Assistant Director of Music at St Mary's Church, Primrose Hill, London. Enjoy an hour of music, hearing the many varied different colours of the organ as Bryan plays pieces by a variety of composers including Gibbons, Bach, Briggs and Willan. The recital is free with a retiring collection towards the ongoing Music Outreach at St Thomas' Church.

WITHYMEAD NATURE RESERVE, OPEN DAYS 2025

Open every Sunday 10am-5pm until 31 August. Serving cream teas 2-5pm on 29 June, 27 July, 31 August. No need to pre-book for any of these dates, just turn up and enjoy – it's free entry, but donations are welcome. Also offering pre-bookable visits on Fridays for up to two hours at a time between 10am-4pm during the same period. Visit www.withymead.org for more info. We look forward to welcoming you to this gem by the Thames.

Further afield

READING BACH CHOIR CONCERT, WITH HEARTFELT JOY

An exciting new venture for Reading Bach Choir and instrumentalists of Concerts in Caversham. In the magnificent setting of Douai Abbey on Saturday 12 July at 7.30pm. The programme will feature Bach *Christ lag in Todesbanden*, Caroline Shaw *To the Hands* and *Entr'acte* and the Telemann Viola Concerto. Tickets £18 / Under 18s £5, via the website www.readingbachchoir.org.uk or on the door.

AFTERNOON TEAS ST MARY'S CHURCH ALDWORTH

These will start on Wednesday 2 July and then every Wednesday in July, August & 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](tel:01635 578624) or gillwilding@hotmail.com

NETTLEBED ART AND CRAFT SHOW

The Nettlebed Art and Craft Show returns for 2025! Saturday 2 August, 11am- 6pm and Sunday 3 August, 10am-4.30pm at Nettlebed School Community Hall. Our 2024 show was a huge success with 160 paintings displayed, the work of 55 local artists, in a wide variety of media. We were very pleased to sell 21 of these. Local craftspeople sold items including jewellery, stained glass items, mosaics, lamps, needlework, woodturning, cards and ceramics. We sold unframed paintings too. We were able to divide our proceeds of £1800 between seven local charities. Free entry and plenty of parking. If you are interested in exhibiting or would like a craft table, please email nettlebedas@gmail.com and ask for an entry form.

WALLINGFORD PHOTO CLUB

Wallingford Photographic Club has wrapped up the official programme for a summer break, but has some activities to look out for ahead of September. We have a photography competition which is open to all: *Summer in Oxfordshire* with a £100 prize up for grabs so why not give it a shot? See wallingfordphoto.club for details. Then come and see us over Bunkfest weekend: we will be holding our annual exhibition at St Mary-Le-More Church (behind the Town Hall) on Saturday 30 August. Drop by to view or buy our best work, chat to members and have some refreshments.

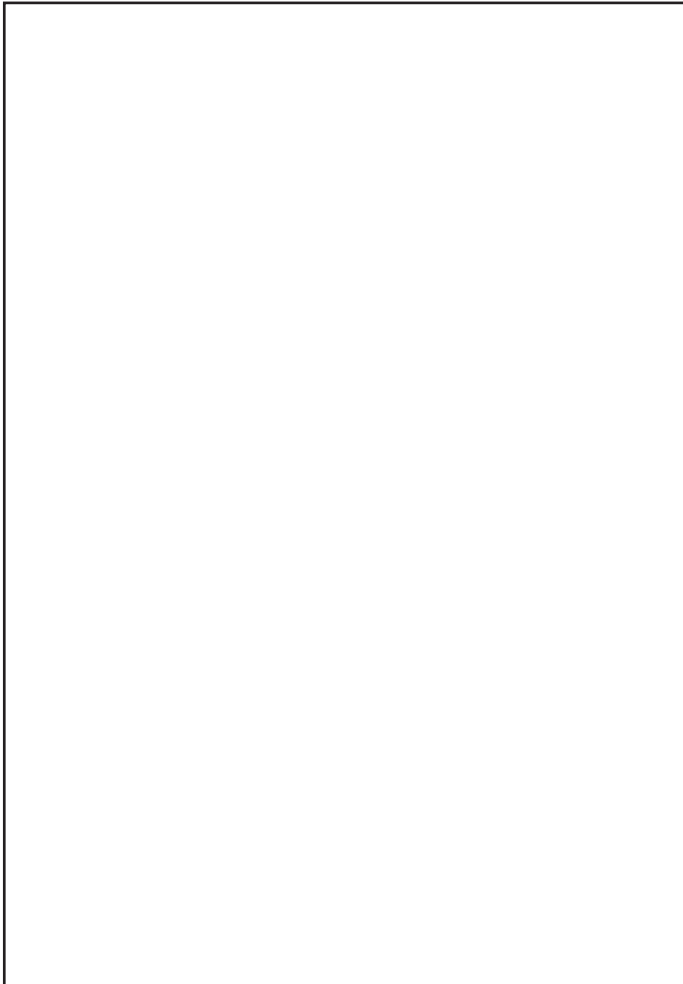
In September we will start a new season. First on Thursday 18 September will be an evening to welcome new members, discuss the new programme and share ideas and progress on our photographic projects for the season. Then on Thursday 25 September is a presentation on 'Astral Landscapes' from Gareth Wilson, who will then take us outdoors for an exciting practical session (let's hope for clear skies!)

CHOLSEY REPAIR CAFÉ

The next bi-monthly session of Cholsey Repair Café will be held on Saturday 19 July at the Cholsey Pavilion, with doors open between 10am and 12.45pm. The usual wide range of repair assistance will be available from skilled fixers. Special services may include clock and furniture repairs, replacing watch batteries and ultrasonic cleaning, although it's advisable to contact the organisers beforehand if you need this kind of help. As ever, repair assistance and advice are given free but parts must be paid for and a modest donation towards running costs is always appreciated. The Cholsey Community Café will be right next door to serve refreshments. For more information, check www.cholseyrepaircafe.com or email repaircafe@cholsey.com

MEDICAL INFORMATION

- **Doctor**—to contact a doctor between 8am and 6.30pm ring [01491 872372](tel: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](tel:0118 322 7020)
- **Nearest First Aid Units:** Townland Hospital, Henley [01865 903755](tel:01865 903755), or Abingdon Community Hospital [01865 903476](tel: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](tel:0845 345 8995)
- **Goring medical equipment** – Equipment including, wheelchairs, toilet aids, mobility aids and more. [01491 872736](tel:01491 872736) or [074333](tel:074333) anytime.
- **Transport Office** – Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday (10am - 12noon) to arrange transport to local surgeries, dentists and hospitals. [01491 873565](tel:01491 873565).





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Tuesday 1 July

Glib Library Book Group. 5-6pm, Library. See Library staff if interested.

Wednesday 2 July

• **Stay and Play.** 10-11.15am, Library. Toddler Group and Rhyme time for pre-school children. Drop-in.

Thursday 3 July

• **Goring Mobile Post Office.** 8-11am, Westholme stores, Wallingford Rd, Goring. Open every Monday and Thursday.

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

• **Goring Village Green Fingers.** 7.30pm, SL. *Gardening With The Disabled.* A talk by Austin Crabbe from Englefield Garden Centre, part of The Affinity Trust, which supports adults with learning disabilities. Austin will talk about growing the best plants and vegetables with the help of adults with learning disabilities. Competition - Salad for One. Grow a mixed salad in a 5L pot. Visitors are welcome £5. For more information www.villagegreenfingers.uk

Friday 4 July

• **Goring & Streatley Wine Society.** 8pm, GVH. Tom Holt, the award-winning winemaker for Paso-Primerio based in Somontano in the Spanish Pyrenees presents his unique selection of wines. It's been a long ten year journey before finding his spiritual home in northern Spain. Tom has revitalised old vineyards, re-established indigenous varieties, Join us to taste the Paso-Portfolio. Enquiries email gswswine23@gmail.com

Saturday 5 July

• **Summer Reading Challenge.** Library. The Story Garden. Free Library trail and crafts all month. Drop in. Sign up for the Library challenge. See P17.

Monday 7 July

• **Goring Mobile Post Office.** 8-11am, Westholme stores, Wallingford Rd. Open every Monday and Thursday.

• **Goring and Streatley Bridge Club.**

6.45pm, GVH. Held every Monday.

Tuesday 8 July

• **Lego Club.** 4.45-5.45pm, Library. Please book.

Wednesday 9 July

• **Cleeve by Goring WI.** 7.30pm, SL. Suzanne Stickley: *First aid matters, learning to save a life in an evening.* Contact Katrina Cooper, Tel: [01491 875334](tel:01491875334).

• **Gap Textile Group.** 7-10pm, CR. The Gap Textile Group has an exciting and varied programme of textile related activities at the monthly meetings. If you are interested in joining, please get in touch. Merete Hawkins, [07747 780158](tel:07747780158).

• **Goring Gap News.** Copy deadline for

July events. News and articles of local interest to goringgapnews@gmail.com

Saturday 12 July

• **Genie News Copy Deadline.** Genie is published twice a month. Email us: news@genienews.org

Sunday 13 July

• **Goring and Streatley Starter Band Summer Concert.** 4pm, Goring Village Hall. See P39.

• **Organ recital.** 7pm, St Thomas' Church. A recital by Bryan Almond. See P39.

Wednesday 16 July

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

Thursday 17 July

• **Pick a Flick.** 10.30am-2pm, CR. Local Hero (1983). An American oil company dealmaker is sent to a sleepy Scottish seaside village to negotiate to buy up the entire village to build a refinery, but he finds himself having a change of heart. Pick a Flick is held every 3rd Thursday. £5 per event including a light lunch. Please 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. We look forward to hearing from you.

Friday 18 July

• **Goring Free Church's Annual Teddy Bears' Picnic.** 10-12 noon Rectory Gardens. Interactive story, free play and games for children 0-4 years. Weather permitting. Free. Bring your teddy/soft toy, rug, picnic food and drink, sunhat and sunscreen.

Sunday 20 July

• **Piano, Poetry and Peace.** 4pm, St Mary's Church. Piano works, poetry and readings based on the theme of peace. Ticket prices will be available nearer the time. Look out for posters.

Tuesday 22 July

• **Social Scrabble Club.** 4.45-7pm, Library. All welcome with refreshments.

Wednesday 23 July

• **Yoga with Emma.** 10-11am, Library. A full yoga session based on the garden and its creatures. No experience necessary. For children aged 3 and upwards.

Friday 25 and Saturday 26 July.

• **Mikron Theatre.** 7pm, Goring Lock. In the 2025 season they once again explore two fascinating British stories.

Hush Hush! will be on 25 July: Enter a world of secrets, songs and cyphers as we meet Bletchley Park's heroes of Hut 3. *Operation Beach Hut* will be on 26 July. Our musical adventure to the Great British seaside. 'Fiddling-On-Sea's Best Beach Hut Competition' is in full swing, and the summer heat is rising...

Saturday 26 July

• **Genie News Copy Deadline.** Genie is published twice a month. Email us: news@genienews.org

Sunday 27 July

• **Withymead Nature Reserve.** Cream Tea Sunday. 10am-5pm, Cream teas served 2-5pm. No need to pre-book, just turn up and enjoy. For more information, go to www.withymead.org Reserve open on other Sundays in July.

Wednesday 30 July

• **Goring Village Green Fingers.** Members only - a visit to the beautiful Worcester College Gardens in Oxford.

Thursday 31 July

• **Summer Reading Challenge Storytime and Craft.** 10.30-11am, Library

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

Wallingford Corn Exchange

Check www.cornexchange.org.uk for film listings.

• Live screenings

Wed 2 July, 7pm, **42nd Street** (PG)
Tickets £12 (adults), £10 (seniors), £8 (under 18s)

Wed 23 July, 7pm, **An American in Paris** (PG)

Tickets £12 (adults), £10 (seniors), £8 (under 18s)

• Live on stage

Tue July, Wed 16 July, Thurs 17 July, Fri 18 July, Sat 19 July, 7.30pm, Sat 19 July, 2.30pm

You Never Can Tell by George Bernard Shaw, performed by the Sinodun Players
Tickets £12 (15 July, 19 July matinee), £15 (all other performances)

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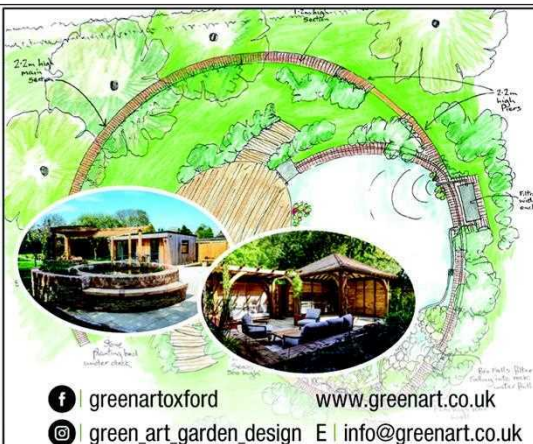
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The new Bourdillon playground



The planned layout



Work in progress

Photo: Dan Gordon-Potts

Emergency services at The Swan...



Three fire engines, two police cars and an air ambulance rushed to The Swan on 19 May in response to a report of a gas leak in the kitchen. The air ambulance landed on Streatley Meadows (above) but didn't stay there long. As far as the GGN is aware, one person received minor injuries but nobody was seriously hurt.



Briefly parked fire engines.

Photos: Bob Kapp