

Goring Gap News

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

The Easter chicks that hatched



Streatley Hill Preschool children holding the chicks they watched hatch. See P15.

Photo: Chloe Sims

Abandoned ship?



A seasoned oarsman bailing out a skiff that was tied to the footbridge by Goring Mill. The owner was later discovered to have been attempting to row from London to the source of the Thames but had to abandon his skiff when the floods hit.

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Goring Gap News

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Distribution

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

April 2026 weekend of 25/26

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June 2026 weekend of 27/28

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

Extra copies can be purchased from Inspiration and Westholme Stores.

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GRAPEVINE

Mobland comes to Goring!

Scenes for the 2nd season of the hit Paramount TV show *Mobland* were filmed in Goring in early March. Starring Helen Mirren, Tom Hardy and Pierce Brosnan, the crime-family drama will air in late 2026. White Hill Burial Ground was used to film scenes, and Pierce Brosnan was seen being filmed walking in a misty Great Chalk Woods. The usage fee for the Burial Ground will be used by the Parish Council to improve facilities at White Hill. The contract signed stipulated that the film company treat the burial ground with sensitivity and that everything be returned to its original state on the completion of filming. See photo on P44.

Goring-on-Thames Parish Council vacancy

A vacancy exists for a Parish Councillor due to the resignation of Nick Mallen. The vacancy will be filled by co-option. Potential candidates should read the Co-option Policy document at www.goringparishcouncil.gov.uk/documents/policies

Candidates should fill out the Co-option Expression of Interest form and submit it by email to clerk@goringparishcouncil.gov.uk or post/hand it to The Clerk, Goring-on-Thames Parish Council, The Old School, Station Road, Goring, Reading RG8 9HB to arrive by 12noon on Tuesday 7 April 2026.

For a summary of the roles and responsibilities of a Parish Councillor and an introduction to the work of the Parish Council, take a look around www.goringparishcouncil.gov.uk or discuss with the clerk or any councillor.

The eligibility criteria to be a Parish Councillor are available on the Electoral Commission's website www.electoralcommission.org.uk

Gardener needed for Jubilee Garden

Goring-on-Thames Parish Council are looking for a gardener to look after Sheepcot Field's Jubilee Garden in 2026-7. Please contact the Clerk at clerk@goringparishcouncil.gov.uk for further information.

Changes to mobile post office times and post-boxes

The opening times for the Mobile Post Office outside Westholme Stores on Wallingford Road are changing from Thursday 2 April. There is a slight increase in opening times on Thursdays. The new hours are:

Thursday 8-11.30am and Tuesday 1.30-4pm.

Some local post-boxes have been taped up recently because their doors have been removed to allow them to be retrofitted and upgraded to 'post-boxes of the future'. New box fronts are being installed with solar panels above. In addition to the regular letter slot, the new design features a scanner and a drawer for parcels, and allows customers to send and return labelled parcels as big as a shoebox through a post-box for the first time. The barcode scanner also allows for proof of postage and tracking.

The turnaround for upgrades can be several weeks as each box is individually measured, the existing door is taken off and the new door must be transported from the Royal Mail engineering centre in Gloucester. The boxes are wrapped to protect them from the weather or vandalism during the upgrade. There are 115,000 post-boxes in the UK, so this is a big project.

Goring community litter-pick

Our local event on Saturday 21 March 9.30am-12.30pm is supported by The Great British Spring Clean initiative. Volunteers are asked to come to the Community Centre, Station Road to sign in, collect equipment and choose or be allocated an area to litter-pick. There will be refreshments provided by the WI for all volunteers!

Please come along and make a difference to your local community!



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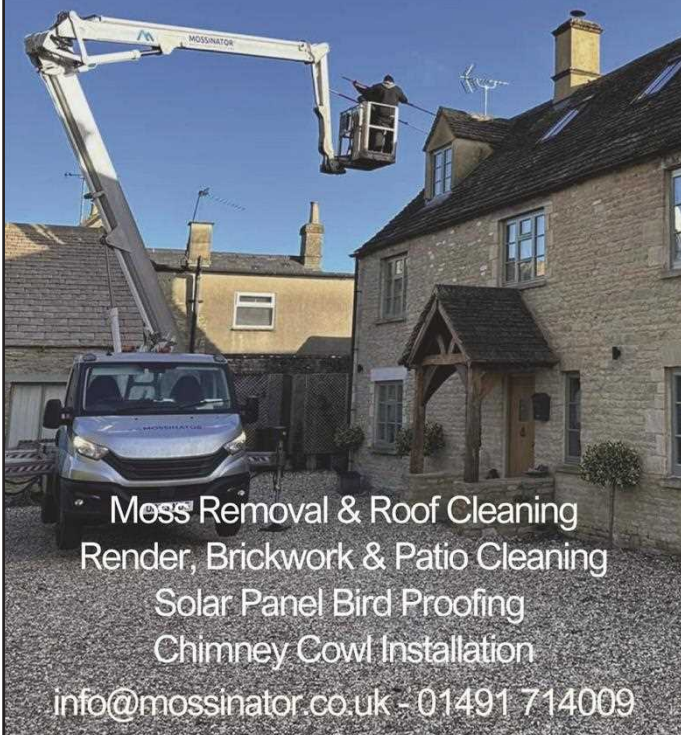
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50th anniversary invitation to all

Saturday 25 April 2026 will see a very special anniversary for Goring Fire Station. We will be celebrating the 50th anniversary of the station on Icknield Road with a special open day event.

Goring Fire Station is part of Oxfordshire Fire & Rescue Service. It's one of 25 on-call fire stations in the county. Rural counties like Oxfordshire rely on on-call stations manned by paid, part-time firefighters. The Goring crew run their fire service commitments alongside their primary employment. Six of the on-call stations in the county also have wholetime crews.

The station has been a central part of village life for decades. In addition to providing fire service cover for the village and wider county, the crew take part in community events and promote fire safety. For certain families the fire service is a way of life with multiple generations serving on the crew. Current crew members Darren Shears and Thomas Casbeard both followed their fathers into the service in Goring.

The celebration will take place at Goring Fire Station, Icknield Road, Goring RG8 0DG on Saturday 25 April 2026 10am-3pm. The crew would like send an open invite to the community, old and young, to come along for this very special day. Some unique vehicles from the brigade will be there on the day – including the HP (hydraulic platform) and rescue tender – with lots of opportunities for kids (and mums and dads!) to get hands on firefighter equipment! The current crew will do a RTC (Road Traffic Collision) demonstration to show the skills and equipment they use in real life incidents. There will be fun and games, music, food and drink and entrance is free. There will also be a raffle taking place with all proceeds going to The Firefighters Charity.

Please book the date in your diary for a very special village anniversary!



Chris Battye

A Greener Way to Go: public meeting 25 March 7.30pm

What if popping to the shops or school was safer, smoother, and easier?

A group of neighbours is coming together to make Goring and Streatley more accessible for everyone, whether you're on two wheels, four wheels or two feet.

We want to transform how we move by:

- Fixing our paths: campaigning for safer, accessible routes that work for everyone – from mobility scooters and buggies to daily commuters.
- Promoting local routes: encouraging cycling and walking for a range of everyday activities, such as shopping, commuting, leisure and fitness.
- Building confidence: offering 'Bikeability' sessions for nervous adults and 'Couch to 50k' programmes to boost your fitness.
- Sharing skills: hosting hands-on workshops so you can fix a flat or adjust your brakes like a pro.

Get involved in building a happier, healthier and greener community. Whether you're a carer, a parent with a buggy, a keen cyclist or someone who just wants quieter streets, please join us for a public meeting to find out how.

The meeting is on Wednesday, 25 March at 7.30pm in the Bellême Room, Goring Village Hall and is organised by GSSG.

The Goring and Streatley Sustainability Group (GSSG)

GSSG was founded in 2006 to bring together residents from both villages who share an interest in environmental and sustainability issues. Over the years, the group has led and supported a wide range of initiatives.

With environmental challenges being more pressing than ever, we are delighted to be reinvigorating the group's work. As well as championing practical local action, GSSG will continue to provide a welcoming forum where residents can meet like-minded people, learn more about key issues and share ideas and concerns. As well as the specific issue of active travel, we will also have some space at the meeting to discuss GSSG more widely.

Further information about our activities can be found at www.gssgorguk.wordpress.com If you would like to get involved and can't make it to the meeting, please get in touch via the contact page on the website or by emailing contact@gssg.org.uk



goringstreatleysustainabilitygroup



Cyclists near Withymead

Photo: Steve Rock



10
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Letting herself go

Gap Comedy welcomed back Lucy Porter who arrived with the easy assurance of someone who knows precisely where she is – and, more importantly, who her audience might be. ‘They say you do the Goring Village Hall twice in your career,’ she smiled, ‘once on the way down, once even further on the way down.’ Porter isn’t a provocateur; she prefers recognition and she opened with a genial roll call... ‘Give me a cheer if you remember Blockbuster... carpeted bathrooms... if you suspect the bags for life under your sink will outlive you’ – and sketching herself as ‘a woman who came second in the South London Irish dancing contest (in the 80s)’ and ‘a Poundland Davina McCall.’ There was affectionate local teasing too and the observation that this is the sort of place where if someone shouts ‘I’ve got a knife’, someone else shouts ‘I’ve got a cheeseboard.’ Porter’s stage presence is gentle and relaxed, like a charming dinner-party guest who’s secured the corner of the table and is determined that everyone will have a pleasant evening.

The show’s loose theme – prompted by an online troll who claimed she’d ‘let herself go’ – allowed Porter to reflect on ageing with conversational warmth. She realised she was railing against the insult while on the sofa, wrapped in a ‘slanket’, covered in biscuit crumbs; she decided instead to reclaim the phrase. Much of the material orbited that familiar refrain, ‘I’ve got to the age when...’, taking in her 16-year-old Ford Fiesta (‘50, 60 in human years – she’s in her prime!’), the 1966 World Cup team who somehow looked ancient in their thirties and the Botox dilemma: ‘you get to the age where you have to decide whether you want to look tired or surprised.’ There were bigger laughs for the slightly bawdier set-pieces – notably her wrestling match with a jumpsuit – but even here the comedy felt companionable rather than confrontational.

Along the way she described her current daytime television work as ‘pre-nap – TV for soup lovers,’ recounting beating a pack of corgis around an assault course on an industrial estate (and winning a biscuit) and cheerfully accepted a *Guardian* review labelling her ‘middle aged, middle class and middle of the road.’ If that sounds faint praise, it misses the point. Porter’s gift lies in her kindness, her steadiness, and her willingness to find gentle absurdity in ordinary life – whether recalling a free-bar Christmas Party at Granada TV, admitting she’s ‘a people pleaser – but if you don’t like it, I will change,’ or closing on the image of a fellow golf club walker stung in unfortunate spots.

Applause at the close was wholehearted rather than hysterical. Porter isn’t out to upend the form; she’s content to hone it, and the room met her there.

The next Gap Comedy Show will be on 9 May see gapcomedy.co.uk

Max Kibble

Peaceful Dreamings – a piano recital by Rachel Neiger, with poetry

We were delighted to welcome back piano virtuoso Rachel Neiger for another uplifting concert of peaceful and happy music interspersed with poetry. The concert was based on the concept of ‘Peacefulness through nature’ and took place in St Mary’s Church, Streatley, on 22 February.

The programme included music by JS Bach, Schubert, Gluck, Grieg, Debussy and Scott Joplin and poems by Yeats, Shelley, Wordsworth and Jane Austen, among others.

My personal favourite pieces were the Grieg *Nocturne*, a musical description of the peace of nature beside a fjord on a Norwegian winter night and the delightful arrangement of *Londonderry Air* by Percy Grainger.

Rachel usually plays in large London venues but we are very pleased that she is planning to return to St Mary’s next year for a third uplifting and peaceful time with some enchanting tunes and poetry, as she enjoys visiting us! Her sparkling and light touch on the piano and her choice of pieces are enthralling.

Thank you enormously to all the wonderful people who chose and read poems to go with the pieces of music: Beverley, Elaine, John, Linda, Mary, Rosemary and our two special guest readers Iain and Max.

The tea and cakes and social time that followed the concert was, as always, an excellent finish to a happy afternoon.

Thank you as always to all the wonderful helpers who make these concerts possible and operational and to those who provide and run the tea and cakes and do the washing up! Especial thanks to John Rogers, Elaine Cox and Linda Ogle. Any profits from the teas go to the Friends of St Mary’s.

Finally, as always, thank you to our audience for being there, astonishingly it did not rain, the sun even came out! Let us hope the storm raising effect of our concerts has stopped, save for the storms of applause at the end. Our next concert is a piano recital by Max Mostovetski, an award-winning young German pianist on his UK tour on Sunday 19 April at 4pm.

Stella Robinson



Lucy Porter performing



Rachel Neiger playing

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Twenty-three years of live music for all

On 28 February, Goring Village Hall was packed for another evening of Goring Unplugged, the community run concert series that has been entertaining local residents for 23 years.

'Admission is only £5, everyone brings their own food and drink with them and we provide the tables,' said founder Chris Hawes, 'and everyone helps stack the chairs and put things away at the end of the evening.' Chris believes the popular appeal is not only an inexpensive evening out, close to home, but the fact that well-known names are happy to share the stage with local musicians and youngsters making their performing debut. The February show was a good example.

The evening opened with Sam & Drew, 17-year-old singer and guitarist from South Stoke, followed by local favourites, the Harlequin trio, whose members have been performing professionally for over 50 years. The audience were delighted to see Rural Broadband, direct from our sister club Peppard Unplugged and Steve Daniels, a popular troubadour who has just released his third album, much to the delight of his fans. Cold Harbour is a real family band, with mother, father and daughter thrilling the crowd with their close harmonies and delightful melodies. It was a joy to see a return visit from popular musician and raconteur Tim Coulson.



Tim Coulson Photo: Anya Goldberg



Rural Broadband Photo: Anya Goldberg

GU founder Chris Hawes will be organising some of the indoor and outdoor performances at the GAP Festival in June, so stop by and enjoy the music! In the meantime, the next Goring Unplugged is on Friday 24 April.

Jonathan Clifton

The Goring Gap Players' most ambitious production?

Having read Leighton Thomas's recollections of the Domesday Celebrations of 1986 in January GGN, I was spurred to recall some more details of one of the most fulfilling years of my time in Goring, with the Goring Gap Players (GGPs). I lived in Goring between 1975 and 2003. In 1977 I was invited by Pat Gabriel, then Chairman of the GGPs, to business manage them. In 1979 I took over as chairman.

David Thomas, Arts Advisor to Oxford County Council, was a major GGPs supporter. In 1984, he suggested we might like to extend our experience by planning and organising a community play, as Newbury did in 1985. The GGPs went to see it and were mightily impressed.

The 1986 Streatley Domesday Celebrations were beginning to develop and in the spirit of the 'community' theme, I offered the celebration management committee a GGPs-run community play. Leighton offered to write it based on historical aspects of the village and I offered to produce it.

David Thomas suggested we apply to Southern Arts for financial support. On submitting Leighton's draft play we were delighted to be awarded a £1000 Directors Bursary, tied to the employment of director, Laurence Honeyford, and produced by the GGPs. Contributions, financial and in kind, came from many individuals and others including the Streatley Celebration Committee, The Swan Hotel, Mrs Robert Maxwell, Vittorio and Christian (hair styling), Warmingham, Morrell Brewery and JW Marcham (loan of coffin).

The GGPs usually produced three plays a year, each with an audience of 50-60 for three to four nights and with a budget of £300-£400. In contrast the community play needed a budget of £3000+ and had to cater for an audience of 200+ a night – a major challenge.



Assembling the necessary large production team and cast started in December 1985, which included:

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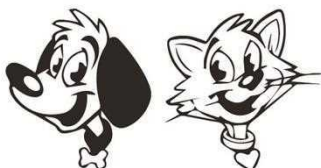


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MUSIC and ARTS continued

The aim was to involve as many people from the local community as possible. Everyone who wanted to participate, would be found a way of contributing.

Anyone who knows about projects will understand that things can go wrong! Two weeks before the play week, I was diagnosed with suspected stomach cancer. Fortunately, Caroline Saunders, production team lead, volunteered to take over responsibility for the final stages of production.

Others key to the success of the community play included: Chantelle Harding (production); Caroline Saunders (location planner); Pat Gabriel (costumes); Gerry Betteridge (stage manager); Guy Purchas (technical); Joyce Payne (properties); Dee Gammer (assistant stage manager); Wyn Thomas (make-up); Jenny and Vivienne (hair); Rodney Hall (music); Jo Joseph (lighting); Garry Chatter (sound); Jeanette Trendle and Vivienne McCracken (box office) and Easton McCracken (bar).

The cast were the whole community – too many to list – but that was the whole point. Some of the people named above are no longer with us, but I hope the names will be familiar to some readers. For me the experience was one of teamwork, involvement and the willingness of everyone to reach for something higher. Great memories. Thank you to all those involved.

David Allen-Butler



Jasmine Hoban in her role as Mrs Morrell

Goring Community Jazz

Mingus -ah -um, with Ewen Baird, Ben Cummings and Ross Law

Charles Mingus (1922-1979) was a unique figure in jazz. As a composer, band-leader and virtuoso bass-player, he was highly innovative and cerebral (a 1956 album was titled *Pithecanthropus erectus*), yet his vast recorded output, often earning four or five stars from critics, contained much that was firmly rooted in the jazz tradition. (In his early career he had played with Kid Ory, Louis Armsrong, Lionel Hampton and, briefly, Duke Ellington). In 1955 he formed his own band, which included the eccentric multi-instrumentalist, Roland Kirk. So, on Friday 13 February, I was not sure what to expect from an evening of Mingus's music. It was played by a group led by the scintillating trumpet of Ben Cummings, with Goring regulars Ewen Baird (tenor sax) and Ross Law (trombone), backed by the house trio. Personally, I was relieved that their selections did not stray too far from 'conventional' jazz.

Better get hit in your soul was a gospel-y number in up-tempo 3/4 time. Cummings' solo displayed his searing tone, razor-sharp articulation and the apparent ease with which he soared into the stratospheric top register. Howard King on bass and Mike Goff, drums, took a chorus together, and a quiet riff from the horns led back to the theme. *Goodbye, Pork-Pie Hat*, was an elegiac melody dedicated to the legendary Lester Young and his trademark headgear. Here, Ben played the mellow flugelhorn, and Ewen Baird provided a moving final cadenza. The numbers all featured tight, well-rehearsed arrangements, ranging from the angular, almost atonal, yet solidly swinging *Opus Four*, to the pastiche ragtime *Jell-Roll Soul*, with Ross Law's 'tailgate' trombone, and Cummings evoking Muggsy Spanier or 'Red' Allen.

In Duke Ellington's ballad, *Sound of Love*, the urbane Ben put aside his horn and sang the touching lyrics in a husky, seductive tone (Chet Baker, eat your heart out!). In fact, every number was exciting and memorable in its own way.

A great evening and an education in jazz.

Gus McGill

Wallingford & District Art Club

On 21 April from 7.30-9.30pm, Wallingford & District Art Club will be welcoming Jennie Whaley, a mixed media artist who will demonstrate painting a wildlife scene. Her early life was in Zimbabwe where shortages of art materials meant she had to improvise, focussing on natural flora and fauna. This led to her lively, vibrant work. Join us at Centre 70 in Wallingford to see how she achieves her colourful paintings. Entrance free to members and non-member visitors' entrance fee is £10. www.wallingfordartclub.org.uk





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Easter Services

HE IS RISEN



St Thomas of Canterbury, Goring

Friday 3 April Good Friday

10.30am Family Service with hot cross bun hunt

Sunday 5 April Easter Day

8am BCP Holy Communion

9.30am Family Communion service

St Mary's, Streatley

Thursday 2 April Maundy Thursday

8pm Holy Communion

Friday 3 April Good Friday

3pm Meditation service with hymns

Saturday 4 April Holy Saturday

7.30pm Easter Eve vigil

Sunday 5 April Easter Day

10.30am Holy Communion service (Please note earlier time)

St Andrew's, South Stoke

Friday 3 April Good Friday

6pm Night prayer

Sunday 5 April Easter Day

11am Family Communion service (Please note earlier time)

Catholic Church of Our Lady & St John

Thursday 2 April Maundy Thursday

8pm Mass of the Last Supper and Watch until Midnight

Friday 3 April Good Friday

3pm Solemn Liturgy of the Passion

Saturday 4 April Holy Saturday

8pm Solemn Vigil, Baptisms and First Mass of Easter

Sunday 5 April Easter Day

Masses at 8am (Latin) and 10am (Sung)

For all other services please see noticeboard and website

Goring Free Church

Friday 3 April Good Friday

10.30am Good Friday Communion

Sunday 5 April Easter Day

10.30am Family Celebration

6.30pm Evening Service

Ecumenical: Reflection, sonnet and night prayer

(Compline) at 8pm in Holy Week, Monday at St Mary's, Tuesday at Our Lady & St John and Wednesday at St Thomas'.

Good Friday procession to the lock

10-10.15am, starts in Rectory Garden

Keeping the feast

'Alleluia! Christ is risen. He is risen indeed, Alleluia!'

With these words Christians greet each other during the Easter season in almost every language. After the long weeks of Lent, when the word Alleluia has been banished from the Church's vocabulary, it returns in all its glory on Easter night. There is something spine-tingling about the sound of a large congregation singing the praises of the Resurrection for all its worth.

Do we think of the Easter season in the same way as we think of Lent? Lent is an easily identifiable six and a half weeks starting with Ash Wednesday when the ashes are put on our foreheads, the organ falls silent and flowers are banished. It ends with the solemn liturgies of Good Friday, Holy Saturday and Easter itself. But Eastertide, for all its celebrations, somehow can seem more amorphous than Lent.

How will we make this 50-day period to Pentecost special? How will we ensure that the resurrection joy which we experience on Easter Day itself will persist? How will that Easter joy pervade each and every moment? How will the Easter season make a difference?

A famous Anglican priest, scholar and poet, summed up the celebrations of Eastertide like this: *We do not come to God for a little help, a little support to our own good intentions. We come to him for resurrection. God will not be asked for a little, he will be asked for all. We reckon ourselves dead, says St Paul, that we may ask God for a resurrection, not of ourselves, but of Christ in us.*

This is an awe-inspiring claim. Christ deigns to be re-born in us. If we have been praying, fasting and giving during Lent, we should not return those projects to store. We must allow them to live and grow. They too must bear witness to the new life of Easter. So often we see the end of Lent as something 'done and dusted', whereas in fact Easter is the great beginning, when everything is made new.

Blessed Columba Marmion, the Catholic Benedictine writer of the 1920s, gives us powerful food for thought and prayer in these wonderful weeks: *The Alleluia that the Church unweariedly repeats during the fifty days of the Paschal season is like the ever renewed echo of that prayer with which she ends Easter week: 'Grant us, we beseech thee, O Lord, ever to rejoice through these Paschal mysteries; that the continual work of our regeneration may ensure to us perpetual joy in heaven.'*

Fr Kenneth Macnab
Catholic Church of Our Lady & St John

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Goring Primary School - our animal posters

Last term, Ibis class worked on a science project to research and find out about top predators in the animal kingdom. It wasn't just a project for school as we also completed lots of research at home too!

Lots of children in the class worked together on the project and we used our computer room to help us research our chosen animals. We even printed off numerous photos of cuddly polar bears (that was our top predator!) and typed up all our facts on Word documents. There was a lot more work to do than I expected. For example, we had to decide on the size and layout of our posters and think carefully about where the writing and pictures should go. After lots of hard work everyone eventually finished.

Our finished posters are now on display in our classroom so we can learn about lots of different predators. During a science lesson, we even got to stand up and talk about our animals. We mostly talked about their food chains, but we found out some really interesting facts too.

I really enjoyed this science project, and I hope we can do something similar again soon!

Emily
Year 4

New chicks, new beginnings at Streatley Hill Preschool

This spring, thanks to funds raised by our wonderful preschool community, Streatley Hill Preschool was delighted to once again take part in the *Living Egg Experience* from The Living Egg Company. Over the course of the week, the children watched in awe as tiny cracks appeared in the eggs, listened for the first soft cheeps, and then witnessed fluffy chicks hatch before their eyes. For many, it was their very first experience of seeing new life begin - a moment of real wonder and excitement!

The learning has continued long after hatching day. The children have been keeping a daily Chick Diary, drawing pictures and talking about how the chicks changed from fragile hatchlings into more confident little explorers. The experience has supported conversations about life cycles, growth and caring for living things in a way that feels meaningful and memorable at this age. This year, the chicks also arrived into a newly refreshed preschool space, as recent fundraising has enabled us to purchase brand new furniture, making the room feel brighter, more open and even better suited to learning through play.

As a non-profit, community-run preschool, these special experiences and improvements are only possible thanks to local support. Our Easter raffle is now live, with the draw taking place on 27 March, and funds raised will help us continue to provide enriching projects like this and further enhance our setting for the children in our community. You can purchase tickets via www.zeffy.com/en-GB/ticketing/streatley-hill-pre-schools-annual-raffle--2026 or scan the QR code. Every ticket truly makes a difference. Just to donate please use: <https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/charity/streatley-hill-pre-school> Thank you for your continued support - and Happy Easter from our community to you all. See photo on P1.



Katherine Barrett
for the Preschool committee

Goring & Streatley Wine Society

Do you enjoy a good glass of wine? Ever wondered why a Marlborough Sauvignon tastes so different from one grown in the Loire? Or how to swirl without looking like you're auditioning for a period drama?

Welcome to Goring and Streatley Wine Society – where curiosity is encouraged, questions are welcomed and the wine is always worth talking about.

Founded in 1994, our friendly society brings together people from all walks of life who share one simple goal: to enjoy wine and learn a little more about it along the way. We meet on the first Friday of every month (except August), usually at Goring Village Hall for two relaxed, flavour-filled hours.

From crisp whites to bold reds (and the occasional delightful surprise), we explore different regions and styles under the guidance of expert presenters renowned in their field. They bring stories, insight – and all without a single exam at the end.

Whether you're a wine enthusiast or someone who just knows what they like (and would love to know why), you'll find a warm welcome.

Not sure if it's for you? Come along as a guest and see what you think. The only thing you risk is discovering a new favourite.

To find out more, drop us a line at gswinesoc@gmail.com – and raise a glass to trying something new.

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Seven Kitchens in the Garden Room

Friends of Goring Library invite you to join them on Wednesday 22 April for an evening of culinary adventure with published author Torie True, who is promoting her recent book, *Seven Kitchens: A Journey Through India's Culinary Heritage*.



Torie True

Torie has been cooking Indian food for over 25 years, learning her craft from family, home cooks and master chefs. In *Seven Kitchens* she explores the history, the many influences, the travellers, settlers and communities that have created the delicious variety of dishes from the Indian subcontinent that we enjoy today.

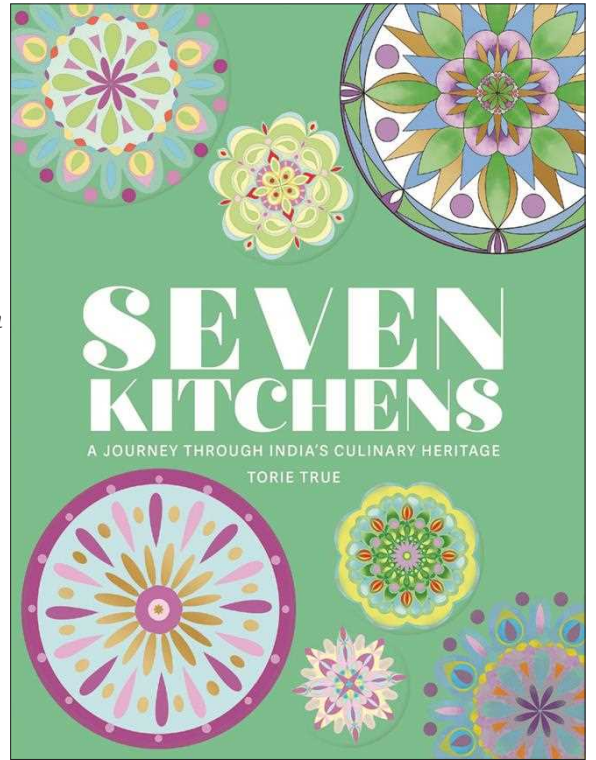
Torie's first book, *Chilli and Mint*, was shortlisted for a Gourmand World Cookbook Award. She is a member of the of the Guild of Food Writers and a Great Taste Judge. In *Seven Kitchens* there are over 100 recipes (more than half are vegetarian) and Torie includes those from Goan Portuguese, Mughal, Anglo-Indian, Indo-Chinese, Parsi, Syrian Christian and Tibetan-Nepalese sources. It's almost impossible not to be tempted by the thought of trying some of these!

Thanks to Friends of Goring Library, you can 'try before you buy': the evening will start with a welcome drink and then Torie will be cooking some of her recipes for us to taste. Torie is passionate about cooking with spices and her demonstration will aim to pass on her love, enthusiasm and (hopefully) some of her skills!

The evening will be held at The Garden Room, Goring Village Hall. Doors open at 7pm, the event starts at 7.30pm, and tickets cost £15.

Do come and join us – you can buy your tickets at the library or Eventrite vi QR code:

Sara Boorman



Goring Library - Mystery Book Challenge for the National Year of Reading

Make 2026 the year you re-discover reading or, if you can't decide what to read next, let us help you choose. Come into the library to select a book from Waterstones top 100 best-selling books of 100 years. The books are individually wrapped, so you can't judge the book by its cover, but there will be a few clues on the wrapper to help you decide. Take it home, unwrap and discover your mystery best seller. When you've read it, keep it or pass it onto family or friends.

The wide-ranging selection includes epic tales, adventure, crime, romance, historical fiction, fantasy, science fiction and more. All of the books are pre-loved and in good condition.

We'd love you to come back, tell us what you thought of the book and borrow more from the library. Whether you're a lifelong member, or haven't stepped inside a library in years, this is for you. New joiners are very welcome. The mystery book challenge starts Tuesday 7 April.

For more information on Goring Library events, opening times or to join the library go to www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/oxfordshire-libraries or find out more about Friends of Goring Library www.fogl-oxon.co.uk




National Year of
Reading 2026

Kate Cheng

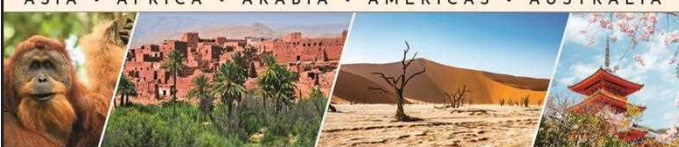


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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

Thanks for a fine local support service

Dear Editor—I recently had hip replacement surgery and was delighted to discover that it was possible to borrow all manner of supportive equipment from the Community Centre to use during my recovery. It is very easy to arrange to borrow what you need by telephoning Brenda on 01491 872736 or Mary on 01491 874333. I was able to have three sets of chair leg/bed leg raisers, two raised toilet seats with frames, a walker (which I actually didn't need as it turned out) and a 'grabber' for picking things up from the floor, on loan for several weeks.

We are very fortunate in Goring and Streatley that this service is available. I'd like to alert anyone who will be having hip or knee surgery in the near future to make use of it and to thank those who organise and run this excellent service. The service is free, but a donation can be made to the Community Centre.

John Chilton

Potential loss of oak tree at The Swan

Dear Editor—We are writing to share some difficult news about the large English oak in the main car park at The Swan at Streatley.

This oak has stood here for more than 200 years and is a much-loved part of the landscape. Sadly, following many years of monitoring and expert advice, we have been advised that the tree now needs to be removed.

The oak has been regularly assessed by independent arboricultural consultants as part of our ongoing tree management programme. Their most recent structural assessment confirms that the tree is in significant decline, with extensive internal decay and a high risk of both stem and major branch failure.

Given the tree's age, size, and its position in a busy car park used daily by guests, visitors and local residents, the professional advice is clear that it now presents an unacceptable safety risk.

This is not a decision we have taken lightly. We know how important this tree is to the community and we share that sense of loss. We have explored possible alternatives and delayed action for as long as expert guidance allowed, but we have now reached the point where removal is the responsible course of action.

While nothing can replace a 200-year-old oak, we are committed to honouring its legacy through new planting on the site. We will be introducing a programme of replacement trees and landscaping designed to support the long-term health and biodiversity of the grounds.

Where possible, sections of the oak will also be retained on site and repurposed within the landscape as natural habitats for insects and other wildlife. Oak deadwood is particularly valuable for beetles and other species, and this will allow the tree to continue contributing to the local ecosystem even after it has been removed.

We will share further details of the planting plans in due course and welcome any feedback from the community.

Thank you for your understanding.

Michal Wawrzenczy
The Swan at Streatley
See photo on P44.

Goring & Woodcote Medical Practice – important dispensary update

The practice would like to update patients on the dispensary service available to patients who live more than one mile from a pharmacy. This service is not offered by all GP surgeries and is an extra service we have been fortunate to offer as a result of the practice's rural location.

We remain aware that patients are struggling to get their prescriptions in a timely manner. We feel it useful to set out why the practice has taken recent measures to temporarily close for a week back in October, the current landscape it is operating in and the rationale behind ongoing decisions.

The dispensary in numbers

- Our hard-working staff dispense around 85,000 items a year (7000-8000 items a month).
- This service is provided through 107 hours of dedicated dispenser time per week.
- One in three dispensaries are now operating at a loss, forcing them to either close or impact on core clinical services through reallocation of funding.
- Profits from our dispensary are reinvested into core clinical services.
- Unfortunately, profits have fallen by 87% in five years.

In 2020 the dispensary profit would have funded seven days-worth of GP time, as of 2025, they funded one day. The cost of drugs over the last three years has risen by 35% but our reimbursement from NHS England has actually fallen. Inflationary pressures have increased our staff and running costs by 50% over five years.

- Like a lot of businesses, we are struggling to recruit into the role. Specific qualifications are needed to be a dispenser.
- A number of external factors have also greatly impacted productivity, not least a shift to online pharmacies by some patients. This remote site dispensing coupled with national stock issues means that the dispensing staff are fielding in excess of 100 emails daily with stock issues and requests to issue alternatives. All of this takes them away from dispensing medications.

The future of the dispensary service

It is our intention to continue to offer a service that is safe and responsive. This means we have to operate with a minimum staff level to ensure medications are appropriately checked and dispensed. When this minimum was not reached, we needed to redirect prescriptions to other pharmacies for one week during October. We understand the frustration and inconvenience this has caused for some patients.

Moving forwards, we have taken the difficult decision to consolidate our dispensing to our Woodcote site from 01/03/2026. We apologise for the inconvenience this will pose for some patients. This is not a decision we have come to easily but, for those patients who wish to have their medications dispensed by the practice, it represents a solution that ensures continuity and reliability of service with a quicker turnaround time and patient safety maintained.

As has always been the case, patients can choose to have their medications dispensed by any pharmacy or online pharmacy and this is easier than ever with electronic prescribing. We continue to welcome those patients who wish to use the surgery service and this will still support the clinical services the practice offers.

How patients can help us

- Those patients who do not use the dispensary and are stable on their medications can choose to have their medications issued through batch prescribing – this electronically signs off your prescriptions for the year and negates the need to request every four weeks through the surgery or app.
- Please make use of the NHS app to order repeat medications where the batch prescribing is not suitable/convenient
- Please allow plenty of time for (currently seven working days with the aim that consolidating to one site should bring this back down to 3-5 working days) your medication to be dispensed and get orders in early.

Looking forward to Lambing Days at Oppo's

Oppo's farm at Gatehampton will be open again for Lambing Days from 28 March. Visitors, both adults and children, will be able to get close to the lambs (there may be opportunities to feed them), feed the sheep using the cups of food available to purchase, walk round the farm and enjoy the peaceful atmosphere in the countryside just outside Goring. Many return every year for this special experience. Volunteer helpers are there to talk about how the animals are cared for, the rare sheep and the work that Oppo's does supporting HM Forces Veterans.

Jon Seward started the farm in 2022 after previously serving as a soldier in The Royal Pioneer Corps and the 23 Pioneer Regiment RLC. To help with his ongoing battle with PTSD, Help for Heroes put him on a business running course and his time growing up on a farm inspired him to run a sheep farm. Jon found that spending time with the animals helped his PTSD. He realised that other sufferers would also benefit and set up Oppo's as a place where they and others could come and spend time looking after the animals. There are 30 to 40 people who come on a regular basis, including veterans, nurses and firefighters. Jon and his wife Lissie are always open to more. People who have served or serve in the forces and emergency services can visit free of charge to help out around the farm and learn about sheep farming, or simply enjoy being there. Oppo's farm, at the end of Gatehampton Road, now operates as a Community Interest Company where nobody gets paid, and all profits go back to the farm or the local community.

Oppo's needs to raise money to feed and care for the animals that live out their natural lifespan on the farm. Lambing visits by the public are an important fundraiser for Oppo's and an opportunity for everyone to experience getting close to the sheep and lambs.

Lambing Days start on 28 March and the farm is open 11-4pm every day in the Easter holidays and then weekends until mid-May.

There is free parking. The address is Gatehampton Rd, Goring, RG8 9LU.

Tickets are £10 for adults and £7 for children or family tickets for £32/£37.

For more information about the farm, Lambing Days, other opportunities to visit Oppo's and to book tickets, visit the new website: <https://www.oppos-working-care-farm.org/> or search for 'Oppo's farm' on Facebook.

Jon said: 'By coming to Oppo's farm you will be doing something special and we will in turn make your time here special.' Just remember to wear your wellies.

Editor



GAP Festival 2026 programme announced

This year's GAP Festival (which runs from 12 – 21 June) promises to be our most diverse and exciting yet, with more than 65 events spanning music, arts, science, nature, wellbeing, theatre and more! Whether you're drawn to hands-on creativity, curious talks, outdoor adventures or moments of calm, the 2026 programme offers something for every age, interest and pace of life.

The full Events at a Glance guide appears in the centrefold of this very issue, giving you everything you need to start planning your festival. Full details of the events can be viewed at www.thegapfestival.org/events Tickets go on sale at noon on Friday 27 March. Some events have limited spaces available, so book early to avoid disappointment.

The Festival's strength lies in its variety. From practical workshops to exciting music and inspiring talks to joyful family sessions, this year's programme invites you to try something new, rediscover a passion, or simply enjoy time together. A few examples capture the festival's spirit of discovery and delight:

Festival wellbeing mornings

Each morning of the Festival begins with a chance to reset, recharge and enjoy the outdoors. A mixed wellbeing programme will be on offer, including Qi Gong, Paddle Boarding, Meditation, Singing and Nordic Walking.

Whether you're seeking calm, connection, or a burst of energy, these sessions are designed to help you step into each day feeling grounded and refreshed.

Build a terrarium

Creative workshops and hands-on sessions will run throughout the Festival, offering plenty of chances to try something new. One example is this guided workshop on Monday 15 June, which invites you to roll up your sleeves and create your piece of living art with the Garden Design Company. You'll learn how to build a terrarium – layering soil, selecting plants and shaping a tiny ecosystem to take home.

Canterbury Cathedral through the ages

Award-winning BBC broadcaster and architectural historian Dr Jonathan Foyle joins the Festival on Wednesday 17 June to unravel the story of one of Britain's most iconic buildings. Through the lives of three remarkable figures who shaped Canterbury Cathedral, he brings centuries of history to life, revealing how architecture, faith and politics intertwined to create the structure we know today.

On a Role presents: *The Secret Life of Enid Blyton*

Following her sell-out performance in 2024 based on Agatha Christie, actor Liz Grand returns to the Festival with her portrayal of Enid Blyton on Thursday 18 June. Loved by generations of children, Enid Blyton sold over 600 million books, yet she was a complex and controversial figure. This compelling one-woman play will bring her incredible and often surprising, story to life on stage. This event is sponsored by Cleeve Lodge.

The Great Gap Mystery Dinner:

The Hunt for the Final Secret

In another first for the Festival, we invite you to join *The Hunt for the Final Secret* on Saturday 20 June. Step into a vintage mystery dinner with a playful treasure-hunt twist. Gather your team, or join a table, to explore unexpected corners, follow curious clues and interrogate a cast of suspicious characters who know more than they're letting on. Join Dead Herring for an evening of intrigue and adventure – will you be the one to piece together the secret and win the prize?

Stay up to date

The GAP Festival is a charity rooted in our community and you can learn more about its work at www.thegapfestival.org To stay up to date as further events are announced, you can sign up to the mailing list or follow the festival on social media: [@TheGapFestival on Facebook and X](#) and [@TheGAPFestival26 on Instagram](#).

With so much on offer, this year's Festival promises a week of creativity, curiosity, and community spirit. Take a moment to browse the centrefold guide, mark your favourites and get ready to book your tickets on Friday 27 March.

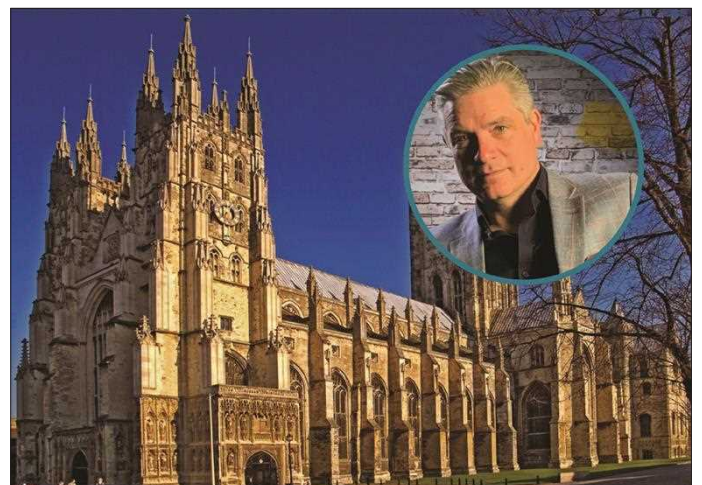
Katie Gristwood



Paddleboarding with The SUP Life



Build a terrarium



Canterbury Cathedral its story through three lives

Goring+Streatley GAP Festival | 12th-21st June

<p>A rare opportunity to enjoy a bespoke production of Puccini's LA BOHÈME in an intimate setting on Fri 12th, Sat 13th and Sun 14th June.</p> 		<p>Discover the WONDERS OF THE NATURAL WORLD with a full day of exciting family events and activities on Sat 13th June.</p> 	
	<p>Experience the immense energy of singer-songwriter and multi-instrumentalist GEORGE MONTAGUE supported by The Moodseeds on Fri 19th June.</p> 		<p>Step back in time for a musical inspired by THE CAMBRIDGE FIRST ALL-LADIES FIRE BRIGADE performed at Goring Fire Station on Sat 20th June.</p> 

AND MORE...Our programme is constantly evolving. Keep an eye on our website for more details!

<p>KEY TO ICONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">  Arts: Get creative in one of our workshops, from basket weaving to acrylics.  Music: Enjoy opera, classical, acoustic, popular, jazz and more.  Word: Experience a range of discussions, talks and creative workshops.  Theatre + Performance: Take in theatre performances or step into the spotlight yourself.  Natural World: Explore the natural world and beyond.  Children/Family: Dive into a variety of events that are fun for all the family.  Wellbeing: Focus on you with our fitness and wellbeing sessions.  Community: Celebrate our diverse community and what makes it so special. 	<p>Throughout the Festival</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 'Playful' Art Installation  Rectory Garden, Goring High Street 'Fringe' Music Performances  See website for details Goring Gap Local History App  See website for details <p>Friday 12th June</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Festival Wellbeing: Qi Gong  Rectory Garden, Goring High Street 8am-9am Paper Cut-Out & Collage  Morrell Room, Streatley 1pm-4pm GAP Festival Opera: La Bohème  Streatley Farmhouse 6.30pm-10pm <p>Saturday 13th June</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Festival Wellbeing: Nordic Walking  Gardiner Recreation Ground 9.30am-11.30am Acrylic Painting with a Palette Knife Workshop  Morrell Room, Streatley 10am-4pm 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wonders of the Natural World  Rectory Garden, Goring High Street 10am-5pm Festival Wellbeing: Wild Yoga  Rectory Garden, Goring High Street 10am-10.30am Science LIVE! With The Royal Institution  Goring Village Hall Timed sessions Discover the Magic of Coding  The Garden Room, Goring Village Hall Timed sessions Screen Printing Workshop  Canterbury Room, St Thomas' Church Timed sessions Nature Photography Exhibition  St Thomas' Church 10am-4pm Behind the Scenes of OrbAstro  OrbAstro, 3 Thames Court, Goring Timed sessions Scalextric Racing  Elmcroft Road Timed sessions Quentet  St. Mary's Church, Streatley 4pm-5pm GAP Festival Opera: La Bohème  Streatley Farmhouse 6.30pm-10pm
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Tickets available online at: thegapfestival.org from midday on 27th March

Some FREE events will require tickets, please check the website for details.
 Telephone Box Office: 0333 666 3366 (local rate 03 number). Mon-Fri 9am-7pm (excluding Bank Holidays), Sat 9am-5pm. Need help booking tickets online? Drop by Viv's Cafe, Goring, every Wednesday from 6th May between 11.30am-12.30pm.



Sunday 14th June

Festival Wellbeing:

Nav-Trail Running

Rectory Garden, Goring High Street
8am-10am



Festival Wellbeing: Paddleboarding with The SUP Life

The River Thames,
The Swan at Streatley
9.30am-10.15am



Festival Market Day

Rectory Garden, Goring High Street
10am-4pm



The Great Community

Showcase: A La Cart

Rectory Garden, Goring High Street
10am-4pm



GAP Festival Opera: La Bohème

Streatley Farmhouse
6.30pm-10pm



Monday 15th June

Festival Wellbeing: Pilates

with LK Pilates

Goring Village Hall
7am-7.45am



Children's Rhyme Time and Crafts

Goring Library
9.15am-9.45am



Summer Landscapes with

Acrylic Workshop

The Canterbury Room, St Thomas of
Canterbury Church, Goring
10am-4pm



Build a Terrarium

The Garden Design Studio, High St, Goring
10am-1pm



The Theatrical Legacy of Terry

Pratchett with Stephen Briggs

Goring Village Hall
7pm-9.30pm



Tuesday 16th June

Festival Wellbeing: Yoga and

Self-Massage with Emma

Goring Village Hall
8am-9.15am



Children's Rhyme Time and Crafts

Goring Library
9.15am-9.45am



Willow Bird Feeder Workshop

Garden Room, Goring Village Hall
10am-12pm



Goring Unplugged Presents:

The Three Idle Women

Goring Village Hall
7pm-9pm



The Big GAP Quiz

Goring Social Club
7pm-9pm



Wednesday 17th June

Festival Wellbeing: Mindfulness and

Meditation with Andy Taylor

The Garden Room, Goring Village Hall
8am-9am



Busy Bee Journey

Goring Free Church
9.30am-11am



The Thames Valley: Past, Present, and Future with Jim Donahue

Goring Library
1pm-2pm



Textile Group Drop-In Session

The Canterbury Room, St Thomas of
Canterbury Church, Goring
2pm-5pm



Canterbury Cathedral: Its Story Through Three Lives

Goring Village Hall
7.30pm-9.30pm



Thursday 18th June

Festival Wellbeing: Swim with Joyful Swim Coaching

The River Thames, The Swan at Streatley
7am-8am



Pastel Portraits

The Canterbury Room, St Thomas of
Canterbury Church, Goring
9am-12pm



Make a Willow Trug Basket

The Garden Room, Goring Village Hall
9.30am-4pm



Children's Space-Themed Storytime

Goring Library
10.30am-11am



Chairman Plays Glass

St Thomas of Canterbury Church, Goring
5pm-6.15pm



On a Role Presents:

The Secret Life of Enid Blyton

Goring Village Hall
7pm-9.30pm



Friday 19th June

Festival Wellbeing: Progress Club Bootcamp

Rectory Garden, Goring High Street
7am-7.45am



Children's Rhyme Time and Crafts

Goring Library
9.15am-9.45am



Festival Wellbeing: Chair-Based Movement & Breath

Goring Library
1pm-1.30pm



Sketching Summer Landscapes with Pen and Wash Workshop

The Canterbury Room, St Thomas of
Canterbury Church, Goring
1.30pm-5.30pm



Festival Wellbeing: Paddleboarding with The SUP Life

The River Thames, The Swan
at Streatley
5.30pm-6.15pm



George Montague Supported by The Moonseeds

Goring Village Hall
8pm-10pm



Saturday 20th June

Festival Wellbeing: Tai Chi & Chi Gong

Rectory Garden, Goring High Street
9am-10.30am



Family Singalong: Science and Music in Harmony

Storton Lodge
Timed sessions



Family Poetry Workshop

The Belleme Room, Goring Village Hall
Timed sessions



Early Years Acting & Mime Workshop

Canterbury Room, St Thomas' Church
Timed sessions



Magic Workshop

Garden Room, Goring Village Hall
Timed sessions



Music Workshops

Morrell Room, Streatley
Timed sessions



Street Dance Workshop

Goring Village Hall
Timed sessions



Open Gardens

Goring and Streatley
1pm-5pm



Discover. Create. Perform!

Finale Showcase

Goring Fire Station
4pm-5pm



The Cambridge First

All-Ladies Fire Brigade

Goring Fire Station
5.15pm-6.15pm



The Great Gap Mystery Dinner: The Hunt for the Final Secret

Goring Village Hall
7.30pm-10.30pm



Sunday 21st June

Festival Wellbeing:

Nav-Trail Running

Rectory Garden, Goring High Street
8am-10am



The Big Riverside Breakfast

Goring Thames Sailing Club,
Bridle Way, Goring
Timed sessions



Festival Wellbeing:

Father's Day Yoga

Goring Village Hall
10am-11am



Meet and Greet the Owls

Withmead Nature Reserve
Timed sessions



Festival Wellbeing: Sing for Fun

Morrell Room, Streatley
11.30am-1pm



Festival Wellbeing: Vegetable Fermentation Workshop

The Garden Room, Goring Village Hall
12.30pm-2.30pm



Festival Finale Picnic Concert

Rectory Garden, Goring High Street
3pm-5pm



With over 65 fantastic events this year, there is something for everyone to enjoy!

I flew through a nuclear explosion and lived to tell the tale

'When you're young, you don't have much fear. I didn't – until we flew up from Perth to Port Headland. We descended and turned in. At ten miles to go the monster was a terrifying sight. I suddenly got worried. It was worse than we thought; the turbulence was extreme. I was concerned that the engines and wings might fail!

But the engines kept going and the aircraft still flew, there was just this gun-powdery smell. We thought the pressurisation filters had broken down and we were dead men.

When we landed, I spoke to the medical chap we'd briefly met beforehand. I said: 'I think the filter broke!'

He said: 'Why?'

'Because of the smell,' I replied.

He laughed and then said: 'I expected that!'

If he hadn't been of such large service I would have hit him!'

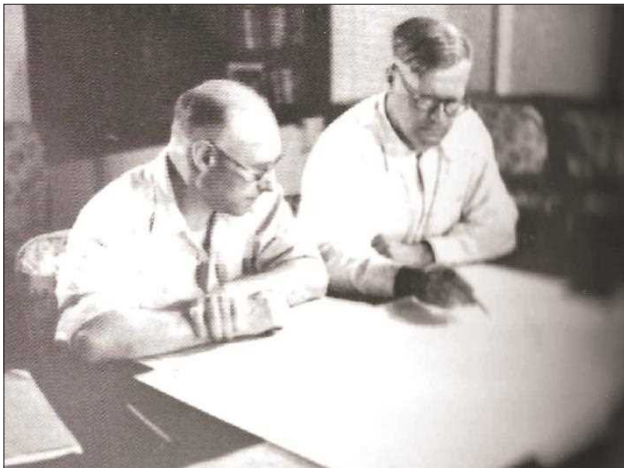
Robin Adams, the RAF and the book

Robin Adams was born in November 1933. He has lived in Goring for over 50 years with his wife Isabel, a retired school teacher. He likes boats, cars and wood carving. He is a member of the local Probus group, having previously been its president. He also loves planes, especially the sailplane he had for many years. His favourite is the F4 Phantom. That last one is probably something to do with his career. Over 40 years ago he served in the Royal Air Force. He was a navigator on Canberra, Shackleton and F4 Phantoms on the Cold War front line.

His recently had a book published. I asked him why he decided to write it. He said: 'I should've written it much earlier, but all the hobbies...' It was his wife who eventually persuaded him to give it a go. Six years later we now have the result. He admits: 'It kept me busy and it was enjoyable.' Having worked in dangerous conditions, losing colleagues along the way, for Robin writing was a way to remember those who didn't make it. It was also a means for him to expose institutional failings, particularly by the Ministry of Defence (MoD).

Surrounded by destruction

Robin did National Service in his late teens: 'I earned one pound one week and two the next!' He trained at Cranwell RAF College. His father's air force career probably inspired him, but he says: 'I always wanted to fly'. He recalls going on holiday around Germany with his sister in 1947. Round the Hook of Holland they went in a ship. When they arrived in Hamburg, he witnessed the destruction left after the RAF's firestorm in WWII: 'It was like Gaza is now; massive piles of rubble.'



Bill Penny at work in Maralinga

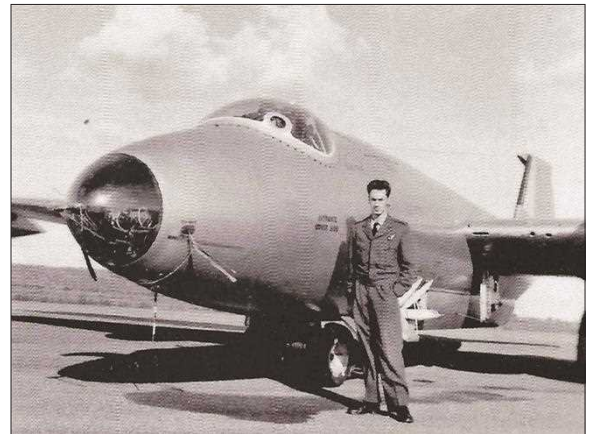
Photo: R.Adams

Destruction continued surrounding Robin, whether he wanted it to or not. In 1955 he was called on 'An Interesting Overseas Tour'. Detailed more in his book, it was only when he arrived in Australia that he found out what that meant. For the next 20 years he was involved in Britain's urgent efforts to catch up with the Soviets' nuclear weapon advances. Operation Mosaic was one such project which took place on the Montebello Islands. Here Robin flew at 15,000 ft collecting samples from the nuclear clouds. All the projects were led by Sir Bill Penny, on behalf of the MoD. Robin casually remembers knowing Penny well as he would, at times, drop by their air crew mess for a drink.

All the missions had the same goal: to ensure Britain didn't get left behind in this terrifying new age war of scientific and technological progress. Despite strong moral opposition to nuclear testing in society back then (continuing to this day), Robin's takeaway from the whole experience was one of awe at the amazing organisational feat of the thing. 30,000 people delivered Britain's first H-Bomb, on time and in budget. Compared with national projects of a similar scale today (Robin suggests HS2), back then 'people could actually get things done'. Amidst global tensions people pulled together, communicated effectively and prioritised.

History-making
Robin says the best part of writing the book was realising: 'It's amazing what you can remember from over 70 years ago!' He agrees it was therapeutic, too. Later in 1969 his crew stood Quick Reaction Alert, regularly spending 24 hours in a hut waiting for the alarm to sound and then rushing out to the aircraft parked outside to make settings on the nuclear bomb hanging below the fuselage. They would then anxiously await the order to 'stand down', never knowing if it was just a drill until the very last minute. The experience was simply terrifying: 'We felt close to a catastrophic war.'

Robin remembers witnessing a megaton bomb test on the ground from 13 miles away: 'A flash came – you could see



Navigator Robin Adams in front of a Canberra

Photo: R. Adams

through your fingers.’ Unlike an atomic bomb this went on and on and got hotter and hotter: ‘It was like fire on your back.’ Standing by the weapon years later, these events made it all come back.

Historic failures

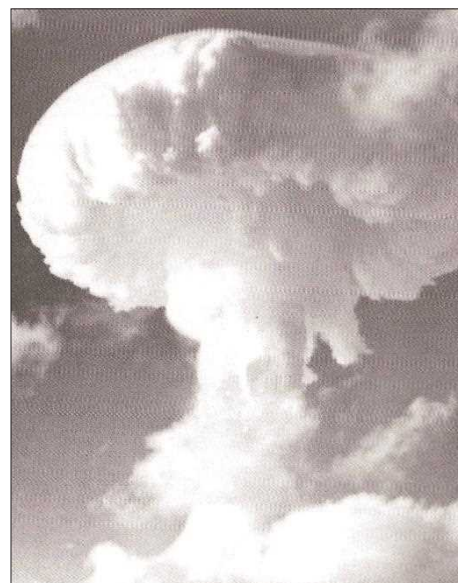
Whether bombs were detonated on the ground or in the air, Robin is candid about the ignorance of his military colleagues and superiors: ‘There were people tramping the ground, picking up samples, driving tanks away. They’re probably now dead, but deformities and mental issues live on in their children. They were not compensated.’ Before he eventually left the military to go into industry and then the intelligence world, during a strict medical examination his files and papers were looked at and he was told: ‘MoD doctors will keep an eye on you’. They never did. Robin says despite the stress, life was fun and happy and the flying was fabulous: ‘It was extremely demanding’. On the Phantom he had a ‘truly exceptional’ pilot who was 6 ft 7 in!

Flying through a nuclear cloud

To find out more about Robin’s life, including how he survived two crashes (both in Canberras, a coincidence?), you can buy *Flying Through a Nuclear Cloud* for £25 from Goring Hardware, Wallingford Bookshop and direct from the publisher:

www.pen-and-sword.co.uk

Dan Gordon-Potts



Explosion viewed from the ground

Photo: R.Adams

Enter the GAP Festival Children’s Nature Photography Competition

The GAP Festival Family Day returns on Saturday, 13 June, with the theme *The Wonders of the Natural World*, to inspire curiosity, creativity and a love of the natural world.

This year, we are inviting young people from across the local area to take part in the Children’s Nature Photography Competition in collaboration with photographer Simon Booker and Beale Park.

From wildflowers and otters along the Thames Path to insects and birds in the garden, budding young photographers are encouraged to step outside, look closely and frame the world as they see it.

A chance to win

Shortlisted images from each category will be displayed as part of a special Nature Photography Exhibition of stunning wildlife portraits taken by professional local photographer Simon Booker. The exhibition will take place in St Thomas’ Church as part of The GAP Festival Family Day.

The winner of each category will be announced on the day of the exhibition and will be invited to join Simon for an exclusive photography workshop. The overall ‘Young Nature Photographer of the Year’ will win a family day pass to Beale Park.

Competition categories



Whether capturing close-up moments, exploring wildlife, or wide landscapes, our judges are looking for photos that tell a story of nature.

The competition is divided into three age groups:

- 🌻 Little Explorers: Ages 5-7
- 🌿 Wild Wonders: Ages 8-11
- 🌍 Nature Through My Lens: Ages 12-14

There’s no need for professional equipment – whether using a camera, tablet, or smartphone, it’s about noticing something special and capturing it. If using a phone camera, it is recommended to take photographs in HD with 24/48MP to allow for printing.

How to enter

Entries close at 5pm on Friday 29 May 2026.

Full terms and conditions, along with details on how to enter, can be found at www.thegapfestival.org

So, head outdoors and get exploring – you never know what wonders are waiting to be discovered right here in the Goring Gap.

Chris Jones



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Easter Balloon



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How a heroic driver saved Goring from a railway disaster

In 1848, just seven years after the Great Western Railway was opened through Goring, its tiny wooden station was the site of an event reminiscent of a silent movie. When the GWR mainline was first opened in 1840, it went on from Goring to Swindon and Bristol. Steventon, the other side of Didcot, was the intermediate station where travellers caught the horse drawn coach over the bumpy road to Oxford. A couple of years later, Oxford got its branch line from a new junction at Didcot, where a station and basic wooden engine depot were created in the open fields.

The runaway train...

On the day in question, GWR steam loco *Witch* (*Firefly* class) was simmering on the turntable at Didcot having a rest. Its crew had left it unattended, maybe while they had lunch. Unfortunately, someone failed to close the loose regulator lever fully and the engine set off unmanned, slowly but surely on the wrong line towards Reading. Luckily the GWR had installed a telegraph not long before. The signalman was able to send a message to Goring to stop any trains coming from the London direction.

The hero in action

Driver Michael Almond, already famous for averaging 70mph (!) from Didcot to London, took his *Great Britain* (one of the new *Iron Duke* express locos) flying along the up line towards Goring. As *Witch* was going slowly, he was able to overtake it well before it reached our village, with time in hand for manoeuvres. If you look at the very early photograph of Goring station, you will note a hand switched crossover between the lines. Almond went past the crossover, stopped and, having switched both sets of points, reversed onto the other line. He cleared and reset the points and set off eastwards, ahead of the runaway train, but on the same line.

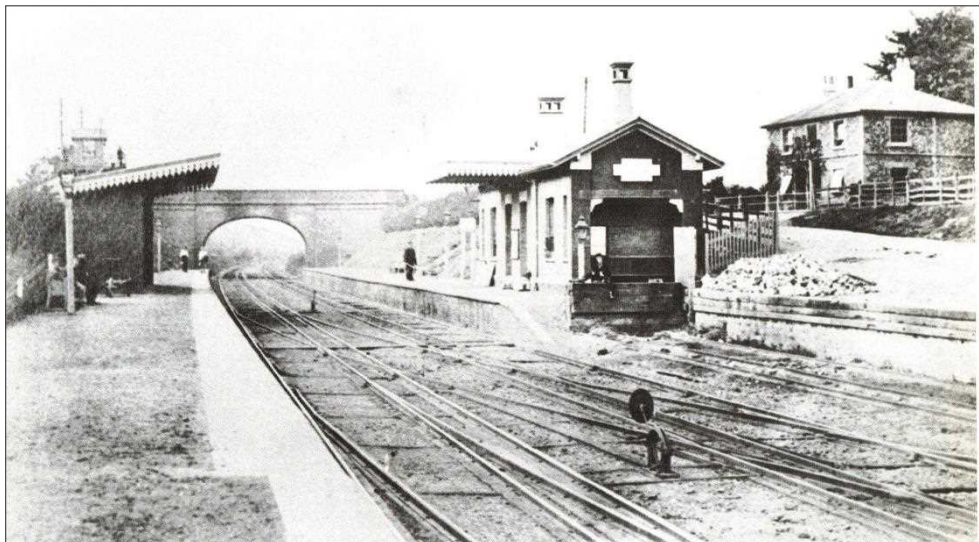
The fireman helps save the day

As the runaway caught up, Almond matched its speed until the locomotives came together. He slowed them down by putting his hand brake on, until they were moving slowly enough for his fireman to walk back along the side of his tender, clamber over on to the front of *Witch*, walk down the side of the boiler to the driving position and ease the regulator, braking the engines to a standstill. Presumably the locos were then coupled and driven gently back to Didcot, where the drama had begun.

See the historic engines

Didcot Railway Centre has full size replicas of both the *Firefly* and *Iron Duke* classes in the old Transfer Shed at the Oxford end of the site. Kids usually like sitting in their ancient coaches. There is also a superb play train near the picnic area in the middle of the site. The Railway Centre is open weekends and Wednesday-Sunday during the Easter holidays, with Steam Days on 3-6 April. See <https://didcotrailwaycentre.org.uk/> If you'd rather stay home with a movie, recommended watching is Buster Keaton in *The General*, available on YouTube.

Mike Hurst



*The earliest picture known of Goring station number 2, just finished in 1866. Note the signal station high on the 1840s road bridge with signalman just discernible above the left-hand platform shelter. The left-hand track was the one that the runaway *Witch* arrived on. The rescue train hauled by *Great Britain* driven by Michael Almond arrived on the right-hand track, having overtaken *Witch* with time to spare. The crossover over which *Great Britain* reversed can clearly be seen. Those who had an old time Hornby clockwork train set will recognise the point levers. Note the stationmaster's house up the ramp. Already 20 years old but still there today.*

Photo: GGLHS



*Firefly running on the broad gauge track at Didcot about 10 years ago. *Witch*, the runaway, was of the same early simple six wheeler type. Note the offending regulator handle standing up in front of the drivers. Note also the hand rails that allowed the crew to walk around the outside of the engine.*

Photo: Mike Hurst



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Easter holiday fun

Goring shops – Easter chick hunt

A trail around the village for families to count the Easter chicks which businesses will have hidden within their window display, available 28 March – 4 April. Buy a map from The Garden Design Studio on Goring High Street for £1 per map, with a list of the participating businesses. All proceeds will be shared between the two primary schools. Just follow the trail around the village counting the number of chicks in each window and recording your answers as you go.

The three children with the closest answers to the grand total will win an Easter egg each or a plant up to the value of £5, collectable from the Garden Design Studio on Easter Sunday 5 April.

Easter Saturday breakfast: Saturday 4 April 9.30-11.30am

Are you planning on coming into the village centre on Easter Saturday morning? If so, why not pop into the Free Church for breakfast? All ages are very welcome! We will be open from 9.30-11.30am, serving bacon butties (vegetarian option available) and hot drinks. There is no charge, but all donations will go to support humanitarian work in the Middle East.

Basildon Park – mansion exhibition and Easter trail

In 1952, Lord and Lady Iliffe saved Basildon Park from demolition and restored the house to its Georgian splendour. Step through the front door and enter the world of Lord and Lady Iliffe to find out more about their design choices in making a home and the creation of Basildon Park as a backdrop to their lives. *Fashioning a beautiful world* is on from 7 March.

When visiting the park and garden, you can make your way along the Easter Adventure trail and find activities for the whole family. The trail is available 10am-5pm on 3-12 April; last entry at 4pm. Come along and explore the beautiful parkland and gardens of Basildon Park. Prices are £3.50 per trail which includes an Easter trail sheet, bunny ears and a chocolate egg with dietary options.

Easter Bird Egg Trail at Withymead Nature Reserve

Families are invited to step into spring at Withymead Nature Reserve this Easter Sunday 5 April 10am-5pm, for a brand-new Easter Bird Egg Trail. The reserve's volunteers have created a series of numbered 'nests' hidden around the site, each one filled with hand turned wooden eggs painted to match a local bird species. Visitors follow the trail, search for the nests, and use the egg colours and nest clues to work out which bird each nest belongs to. From reedbed specialists like the sedge warbler and water rail to garden favourites such as the robin and blackbird, the trail offers a gentle way to explore the reserve's habitats and learn about the birds that call Withymead home. Children can record the nest numbers they find, spot real birds along the way and take part in a simple wildlife survey on the back of their trail sheet. The activity is self-guided, suitable for all ages and designed to encourage slow, curious exploration of the reserve. Trail sheets will be available at the entrance from 10am, and visitors are welcome to drop in at any time during the day.

Funky Philharmonic – three workshops for budding musicians

The Goring & Streatley Young Musicians Trust is delighted to be hosting its inaugural *Funky Philharmonic* workshops this Easter, for instrumentalists of all ages and abilities. These workshops are all carefully designed to inspire, encourage, and celebrate music-making as part of a supportive group, including experienced musicians and teaching professionals, and we would like to invite you to join us.



Bring your instrument, bring your enthusiasm, and get ready to make music with others! There won't be any spotlight on individual performances (unless you want there to be...). Instead, it will be about discovering the buzz of playing alongside others and where every note contributes to something special.

The *Funky Philharmonic* will take place at Goring Village Hall on three afternoons, Tuesday 31 March – Thursday 2 April, 2-4pm (places are available daily with a discount for all three days). This special programme welcomes any instrument and any playing level (although you must be able to put your instrument together yourself and know how to play a few notes). These workshops are therefore suitable for recent beginners, developing players, or those returning to music after a break. Each participant will join a structured series of sessions led by experienced teachers and supported by a twenty-piece ensemble and professional rhythm section. More advanced participants will be given parts appropriate to their playing ability, so there will be something suitable for any standard.

Across the three afternoons, attendees will enjoy a fun and varied musical experience, including dedicated sessions in group samba percussion (no prior experience necessary), an introduction to jazz (suitable for ages 8-108...) and concluding with a performance workshop, with all parts carefully assigned to match each individual's level of experience. The *Funky Philharmonic* is all about collaboration, connection, and discovering the joy of creating something special as a large group. The course is open to instrumentalists aged eight and above, and accompanying adults are warmly encouraged to join in (for free!).

For further information and to reserve your place, please visit: www.goringandstreatleyymt.co.uk/funky-philharmonic Places are limited, so do sign up quickly to avoid disappointment!

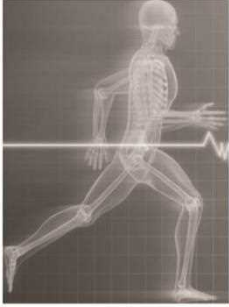
Established in 2024 to support and expand musical opportunities for young people in our villages, the Goring and Streatley Young Musicians Trust is committed to removing barriers to musical education and fostering a thriving, inclusive community of musicians. Do take a look at our website or facebook pages to find out more about what we do, and we'd also like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has supported the Trust in its first two years. See:

www.goringandstreatleyymt.co.uk Email: info@gsymt.co.uk Facebook: www.facebook.com/GoringandStreatleyYMT

Claire Salmon

Trustee, Goring and Streatley Young Musicians Trust

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John and Beryl Adams – celebrating 65 years beside the Icknield Way

It will be our 65th Wedding Anniversary on the 1 April this year – so that will be 65 years living in and around Goring.

Our first homes

We started off in Ousley Barn Farm near Ipsden, where we had a tied cottage that went with the job. After about a year, we had a disagreement with the owner. Beryl was pregnant with our first baby, so we had to find somewhere to live.

We found a house to let in the middle of a field, just off the Icknield Road from Goring to Ipsden, at Lower Cadley's Farm. This belonged to Frank Bullock of Church Farm in South Stoke.

I had to find another job and got started with doing a milk round in the Ipsden area for Deans Dairy, which used to be at Battle Farm on Elvendon Road. It was run by Miss Dean.

Everything used to be delivered in those days, the milk, the bread, hardware such as paraffin and soap, and meat from the butcher. The house had no electricity or mains water so we relied on those services. The nearest shop was either Bunnies in South Stoke or The Bungalow Stores in Cleeve, which had the post office as well. Both were over a mile away.



Lower Cadley's Farm in 2014

The winter of 1962

Our first daughter, Janet, was born in November 1962 and the long cold winter of 1962/63 began just after Christmas. Beryl's parents and sister had come down from Barmouth in North Wales to see their new granddaughter. I just managed to get them to Goring Station to catch the train home, before the snow started in earnest.

We were then cut off from just after Christmas until March. I couldn't get to work, no one could get anywhere. All the roads were blocked. When Beryl's milk dried up I had to trudge through the snow, knee deep, to Deans Dairy, to get milk for the baby. Miss Dean would only let anyone have one pint, as she didn't know when she would get another delivery.

That was the daily routine until I went to work for Jack Hatt at Woodcote, driving diggers to help open the main roads. We got the main road from Reading to Wallingford open, but the snow kept blowing off the fields and filling the roads, so on the open roads it was a constant struggle. It wasn't so bad in the villages.

Once the streets were cleared and salted, it was fairly easy to keep them clear. At least I could get milk from the Co-op in Woodcote. But I still had to trudge from Cadley's to Woodcote every day.

We didn't manage to get those minor roads open till mid-February.

A house in Goring

Our second daughter Chrissie was born at Cadley's in 1966. We managed to get a council house, on Cleeve Down in Goring, in 1969. We lived there for 52 years. We moved from there in 2021 to Towse Court, in Icknield Place, where we have been very happy for the last five years.

That means that we have lived beside the mediaeval Icknield Way all our married life – and hope to for a few more years.

John Adams

Beavers need you as a leader for our Beaver Colony

The 2nd Goring & Streatley Beaver Colony has been successfully run for the great benefit of the youngsters of the villages of Goring and Streatley for about 30 years, even during COVID19. But now the two elderly leaders have decided it is time to step down as from Easter, allowing younger leaders to take over.

Existing leader 'Keeo', Maz Elsome, is prepared to continue running the Beavers, but clearly cannot do this without the assistance of at least two other leaders, to ensure the safe running of the Colony.

We need Beaver leaders urgently

In the past both male and female leaders have come from many walks of life. All were very busy people, ranging from a specialist pig farmer to computer geeks, builders, teachers, architects, church leaders and parents. All have benefitted our young members and had great fun and enjoyment from their roles.

Training (if required) can be given at meetings and is all straightforward and easy to learn.

Meeting programmes are pre-planned within a two-year rotation of games and activities. Obviously, these can be changed to introduce new ideas. The Beaver work and testing requirements are all set and very easily understood. Uniforms are provided free of charge to leaders. Beavers meet each Tuesday 5pm-6pm, term time only, at the Morrell Room, Church Lane, Streatley.

Helping the youngsters is good fun and it is very rewarding to see them develop. It would be such a shame to lose this great facility within the villages. As Group Scout Master it is my role to recruit leaders, to ensure that all sections are properly manned and safely run. Please help me with this task by volunteering today as a leader in the Beavers. Do not be shy, you are just the person we are looking for.

To find out more and become a Beaver leader please give me a call.

David Cooksley (Skip)
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Goring-on-Thames Parish Council

Full Council meeting

The principal points of the Goring Parish Council meeting in February are summarised below. The draft minutes will be available at: www.goringparishcouncil.gov.uk in due course.

- The Places and Assets Working Group recommended strategy for weed control in the village for 2026 was approved – to focus on the purchase and use of a mechanical weed ripper - see article below.
- A grant request from Goring Community Centre to upgrade the lavatories in the Community Centre was approved
- A budget of £100 for the litterpicking day on 21 March was approved – the Reiss Room has been booked as the hub for the day
- The publication of the Goring-on-Thames Conservation Area Appraisal and the obligations in its management plan were noted
- It was approved to continue to supporting Readibus by contributing £350 towards running costs
- The Statement of Work for a consultant to take forward an update of the Neighbourhood Plan and to approve seeking quotes from potential consultants was approved
- It was noted the Annual meeting of the Parish is booked for 6pm on Friday 29 May
- Permission was approved for the GG Croquet & Bowls Club to fit out the changing room at the Gardiner Recreation Field
- A request for short term hire of White Hill Burial Grounds for filming was approved
- Goring in Bloom was given permission to use the Rectory Garden for their annual plant sale on Saturday 2 May 2026. Additionally, Goring in Bloom was granted permission to plant an elm at the top of the Sheepcot Field
- The annual Free Church King's Club was given permission (28 July to 1 August) to use the Rectory Gardens and Gardiner Recreation Ground for children of the village
- The football presentation day at Sheepcot on Saturday 6 June 2026 was approved

Next meetings: 6.30pm Reiss Room, Goring Village Hall, 9 March and 13 April. To see agenda before the meeting:

www.goringparishcouncil.gov.uk

Weeding Strategy for Goring in 2026

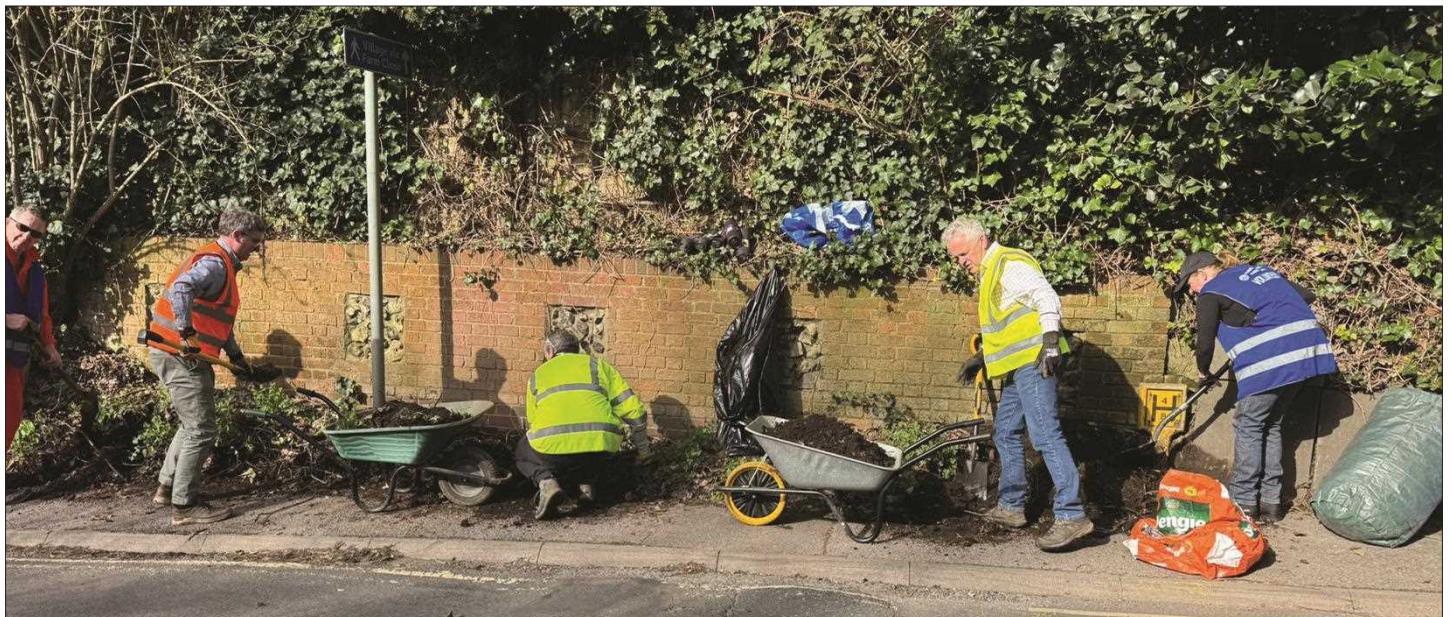
At its Full Council Meeting on 9 February, Goring Parish Council voted to adopt the recommendations of a report into weed management in the village for 2026 and beyond. The report was a response to the dwindling support from District and County councils for active weed management around towns and villages across the countryside, due almost inevitably to budgetary pressures, and the recognition that parish and town councils are having to take on this task themselves.

There was a degree of public concern in 2025 that the use of glyphosate to spot spray weeds around the village was a potential health hazard and the Parish Council undertook to look at the suitability of alternative methods of weed control.

The key recommendations of the report, that were approved by the Council, were the purchase of a specialist weed ripping machine for use by the Facilities Manager and other suitably trained persons and designated community weeding days in May and September, in which the public will be invited to participate to keep our village streets looking beautiful and free of weeds which can become a hazard if left unchecked.

The first such community weeding day will be on the morning of Saturday 16 May, with villagers encouraged to sign in at the Community Centre, Station Road from 9.30am onwards. Further details and publicity will be distributed closer to the day, but there will be refreshments provided and hopefully we can see a good turnout!

Sarah Edmunds
Parish Clerk



Parish Council volunteers clearing a buried pavement on Reading Road

Photo: Robin Williamson



Open Day Sunday 26th April

10am-1pm

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Do you want to play tennis or pickleball?

Goring Tennis Club Open day is on Sunday 26 April 10am-1pm – come and check us out!

- We're on the Sheepcot recreation ground just up from the railway station.
- Adults and children welcome, refreshments available, see our advert for more details.
- Please note for safeguarding reasons, no unaccompanied children under the age of 17.

We've also got lots of group classes to get you going:

For those who've taken a break from the game and are ready to get back on court, new season Return to Tennis courses start on Wednesday mornings 9.45am-10.35am and Thursday evenings 6.15pm-7.05pm in the week beginning 13 April. Designed for those with some prior experience, the sessions focus on refreshing fundamental skills, improving technique and rebuilding confidence.

Currently running, Cardio classes are great fun and exercise in the fresh air. You don't have to be a great tennis player, there's lots of running around with inspirational music and if you hit the ball that's a bonus! Sessions are on Monday mornings 9am-9.50am and 9.55am-10.45am with another class on Wednesday mornings 8.45am-9.35am, you can join at any point.

And there's Tennis drills on Thursday evenings 8pm-8.50pm. These are great for sharpening your tennis skills with a friendly bunch of like-minded players.

For younger players we have After School Club on Mondays 3.45pm-4.30pm for Y1-Y3 and Tuesdays 3.45-4.30pm for Y4-Y7. Non-members are welcome to the after-school clubs and to the Easter tennis camp for ages 4-14 which will be running from 30 March – 10 April.

All our group sessions are open to members and non-members alike. Coaching is provided by our experienced Head Coach Jon Howey of Oxfordshire tennis.

To book any of our courses or for further information please visit our website www.goring-tennis.co.uk and follow the links. Or contact Jon via head.coach@goring-tennis.co.uk

And if you used to play tennis and would like to play again at a gentler pace why not try walking tennis? This is played and scored like normal tennis, but uses a softer ball that can be allowed to bounce twice. Strictly no running, but you will still get fresh air and exercise. We have a very friendly group who play 2-3pm on Wednesdays followed by tea and biscuits.

After Easter we'll be running some coaching sessions, new joiners are welcome.

For more information about how to get involved contact chairman@goring-tennis.co.uk

Pickleball

We're so excited to be introducing pickleball to Goring Tennis Club.

We've had two courts marked out and are in the process of designing a programme to introduce players to the game. Watch out for a pickleball club night on Monday evenings 6pm-9pm after Easter. Contact pickleball@goring-tennis.co.uk to register your interest.

Membership packages for the new season are available now on our website. Hope to see you soon!

Jane Cartledge

Hairy Legs 2026: Run, rally and raise funds for local schools

On Sunday 10 May, our community will once again come together for the much-anticipated Hairy Legs cross-country event — a fantastic day of fun, fitness and fundraising in support of our local schools.

For those who have not taken part before, Hairy Legs is far more than a race. It is a relaxed, family-friendly day held at Sheepcot Recreation Ground, bringing together runners of all ages and abilities. Whether you're chasing a new personal record or just soaking up the local scenery, the event promises a day of high-energy competition and great company.

The day begins with the ever-popular Little Legs children's races. At 10am, Little Legs 1 - for children in Reception to Year 3 - will complete one lap of Sheepcot. At 10.20am, Little Legs 2 - for Years 4 to 6 - will take



Little Legs enjoying the races in 2025

Photo: Chris Nicholson

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SPORT continued

on two laps. Young runners are accompanied by the much-loved Hairy Legs Panda, guaranteeing plenty of smiles and encouragement along the way.

At 11am, runners in the Hairy Legs, Relay Challenge and Teenage Kicks events will head out onto a beautiful cross-country course that winds over rolling hills and through stunning woodland. Teenage runners complete one loop of the course, while adults can choose to run solo - tackling two loops - or enter as a relay team of two, with each runner completing one loop. There is also a popular Parent-Teen relay option, where teens run the first loop before handing over. Each loop is measured as six 'Hairy Legs kilometres' - a light-hearted estimate, as the course has never been officially measured.

Prize giving will take place at 12.30pm, celebrating the day's achievements. Afterwards, participants and supporters are warmly invited to continue the festivities at The Catherine Wheel in Goring for light refreshments and a chance to share stories from the morning's races.

The list of sponsors is growing, and we are incredibly grateful to the local businesses who have already committed their support: Warmingham & Co, Clarity Leadership, The SUP Life, Coppa Club Streatley, The Catherine Wheel, Humidity Solutions, Bodysset, Cranford House, Field Seymour Parkes and Premier Heating Solutions.

Hairy Legs is a vital fundraiser for Goring Primary School and Streatley Primary School. The 2025 event raised more than £2,300 for each school. With sporting budgets at an all-time low, these funds make a real difference - enriching coaching opportunities, providing new equipment and helping maintain facilities so local children can continue to thrive through sport.

Join us on Sunday 10 May and help make this year's event even bigger and better. Sign up today at www.hairylegs.net and be part of something truly special. Keep an eye on social media for more details in the coming weeks.

Lotte, Kelly, Caroline, Jon, Bev, Anna and Lily
Hairy Legs Committee 2026

Goring Cricket Club 150 not out!

In response to the Editor's call in the January edition for any information on upcoming anniversaries for local clubs - I am pleased to say that 2026 is our Sesquicentenary year at Goring Cricket Club!

Founded in 1876, we are very proud to have reached 150 years, and we have lots of exciting plans for our 150th celebrations at the end of August.

Keep an eye out for the full programme in an upcoming GGN edition - but as a taster of what might be ahead, I've included a picture of the scorecard from the highlight of the 1976 Centenary celebrations - a match against the MCC.

The club is going from strength to strength with opportunities for all ages and ability. If you want to find out more please visit www.goringcricketclub.com or contact jonnyrussell100@outlook.com

Jonny Russell

Fancy some pétanque?

Pétanque Wallingford is holding 'come and try sessions' on Sunday, 12 April, and Tuesday, 14 April, at 11am at Wallingford Sports Park, Hithercroft Road, Wallingford, OX10 9RB.

Pétanque, pronounced 'pay-tonk', is one of the most inclusive sports. It can be played by practically everyone, of all ages and with whole families. Pétanque is also one of the few sports in which men and women, boys and girls, the retired and their grandchildren can compete on equal terms.

We can provide the introduction and boules, so if you are interested in playing recreationally or competitively, come and join us. Information can be found on the Club website www.petwal.co.uk For further information and to sign up, contact us at petanquewallingford@gmail.com

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Played on the GARDINER RECREATION GROUND on SUNDAY, 8th AUGUST at 11.30 a.m.

Umpires: Mr. D. Woodage
MR. D. WHELEY

Scorers: Mrs. P. Jeffries
Mr. C. Jeffries

M.C.C.			GORING C.C.		
1. ALAN DAY, Captain Hertfordshire & Middlesex	15	NO	1. LESLIE SHEPHERD, Captain	6	
2. JOHN BROADLEY, M.C.C.	1		2. DAVID AVERIES	0	
3. TONY DAVIES, Berkshire	48		3. DAVID COLEY	39	
4. PAT KELLY, Cheshire	14	NO	4. FRANCIS CROOK	0	
5. KEITH LEWIS, Cambridge University			5. GERRY JACKSON	0	NO
6. JOHN LOFTING, Assistant Secretary, M.C.C.	29		6. REG. JEFFRIES	0	
7. MICHAEL MENCE, Warwickshire & Berkshire	76		7. ERIC LARGE	1	
8. JOHN NORMAN, Northwood C.C. A.F. GOLTON			8. DAVID LOCKWOOD	3	
9. ERIC RUSSELL, England & Middlesex	7		9. JOHN SLADE	37	
10. NEIL DURDEN-SMITH, Combined Services & B.B.C.	26		10. ANDREW TAYLOR	52	
11. CHARLIE TOOLE, Middlesex	22		11. MICHAEL WOODS	35	
Extras	11		Extras	22	
DECLARED, 259-7			195 ALL OUT		

Fall of Wickets:

1...59	2...87	3...145	4...207	5...220	1...13	2...71	3...107	4...113	5...191
6...229	7...220	8.....	9.....	10.....	6...192	7...195	8...195	9...195	10...195

Bowling Analyses:

GORING					BEST MCC				
O	M	R	W		O	M	R	W	
G. JACKSON	13	1	65	3	C. TOOLE	9	4	25	3
D. LOCKWOOD	18	1	81	1	M. MENCE	3	-	6	-
A. TAYLOR	9	-	34	1	L. LEWIS	13	4	35	3
F. CROOK	8	2	34	2	P. KELLY	9	1	31	1
D. AVERIES	5	-	34	-	E. RUSSELL	8	2	13	1

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GCC v MCC scorecard from the centenary celebrations

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MEDICAL INFORMATION

- In an emergency dial **999**
- **For medical advice** at all times, including surgery out-of-hours, dial **111** or use <https://111.nhs.uk/> You will be told how to obtain any further help if needed
- **Local pharmacies** can offer advice and treatment for some conditions. Goring Pharmacy: **01491 872124**
- **Nearest First Aid Units:** Townland Hospital, Henley **01865 903755**, or West Berkshire Community Hospital, Thatcham **01635 273508**, or Abingdon Community Hospital **01865 903476**
- **Goring & Woodcote Medical Practice:** Monday-Friday 8am-6.30pm **01491 680686** Requests for appointments are triaged to direct patients to the correct help and should be made using the form available at www.goringwoodcotemedicalpractice.nhs.uk If you are unable to use the form, the practice can be contacted on the above number to support you.
- **Nearest Casualty Department:** Royal Berkshire Hospital, Reading **0118 322 7020**
- **Emergency Dentist** – call **111** for advice
- **Goring medical equipment** – including, wheelchairs, toilet aids, mobility aids and more: **01491 872736** or **01491 874333**
- **Goring transport office** – 10am-12noon Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, to arrange volunteer transport to local surgeries, dentists and hospitals **01491 873565**.

SHIP AHOY!

Goring Thames Sailing Club has been sweeping the decks and sheeting in, readying their club for the launch of the 2026 sailing season and their unmissable Open Day between 11.00 and 3.30pm on Saturday 25 April. All ages are welcome to learn the ropes and hoist some mainsail, by launching on the water, with club members, or even solo, in the free-to-use range of boats, kayaks and SUPs. The Club has safety equipment available (and a safety boat will be on duty), but a change of footwear and clothes is advisable. The sailing club runs activities for juniors throughout the year. Watersport activity weeks and learn to sail training are run during school holidays. For more information about Goring Thames Sailing Club, see the website on www.goringthamesc.com

OSCAR WILDE'S AN IDEAL HUSBAND

Goring Gap Players, Spring Production. Wednesday 15 – Saturday 18 April, 8pm at Goring Village Hall.

This classic Wilde play centres on Sir Robert Chiltern, a prestigious member of the House of Commons, who has it all: money, influence and a beautiful wife. What could possibly go wrong? Tickets £15 with a discount of £2.50 for first night bookings www.trybooking.com/uk/GAMQ Full details can be found on www.goringgapplayers.co.uk

PASSIA, THE PASSION RETOLD THROUGH WOMEN'S VOICES

By Liz Dilnot Johnson and sung by Papagena with a chorus of local voices. Friday 27 March 6pm-7.15pm in St Thomas' Church, Goring. A service of reflection before Holy Week will incorporate much of this brand new composition inspired by the women in the gospel accounts of Jesus' life leading up to the cross. Full details can be found on www.papagena.co.uk or www.ThomAndMary.org.uk There will be no charge but a retiring collection to cover the professional musicians' costs.

ISLAND VIBES: CARIBBEAN NIGHT

Transport yourself to the tropics on Saturday 11 April at Goring Social Club from 7pm, as we welcome local resident Tony Virgo Harris for an authentic Caribbean takeover! Tony's family originates from Barbados, and he is bringing that vibrant Bajan spirit straight to the Club. It promises to be a night of pure sunshine vibes, featuring delicious food, tropical drinks, and a soundtrack guaranteed to get you moving. Entry is free for members (£2 for guests).

ROCK AND POP CLASSICS: SUB ZERO LIVE

Get ready for an electrifying night as we welcome Sub Zero to Goring Social Club on Saturday 25 April, from 8pm. This exciting five-piece band, featuring both male and female vocals and harmonies, has been rocking stages since 2009. They bring a repertoire of hits from the last 40 years, expect everything from Abba and Lady Gaga to The Police, Bryan Adams, and Status Quo. Entry is free for members (£2 for guests).

EASTER HOLIDAY FUN DAY

Monday 30 March, 11am-3pm St Thomas' Church. Come and explore Easter celebrations from around the world and help prepare and decorate for all our community to celebrate on Easter Sunday. Ages: Reception – Year 6. Activities to include hot cross bun making (Ireland, England), kites (Bermuda), egg decorating (Greece, Egypt), carpets of flowers (Honduras, Peru), chapatti and injera (Kenyan, Ethiopia) and Easter flowers – native spring blooms (England). Plus team games and interactive reflections on the last supper on love and service. Please sign up and get a registration form from Ben at vicarofgsandss@yahoo.com Suggested donation of £6 a head to cover ingredients including a shared lunch.

THE BEREAVEMENT JOURNEY COURSE

A seven-week course designed to support those living with loss, combining professional insight with a warm, accessible approach. The course will begin on Tuesday 21 April, meeting in the Canterbury Room at St Thomas' Church. Sessions will be held in the evenings from 7.30pm-9.30pm. Transport can also be arranged for those who may find it difficult to get to the church. For details or to register for the course, please contact Revd Ben Phillips by email at officeofgsandss@yahoo.com or by telephone on 01491 875651

LODDON LILY SUNDAYS, WITHYMEAD RESERVE

10am-5pm. April 5, 12, 19, 26. (Cream Teas served on April 26 from 2-5pm). No need to pre-book, just turn up and enjoy. More info at www.withymead.org

Further afield

WALLINGFORD PHOTOGRAPHIC CLUB

In 2026 Wallingford Photographic Club (wallingfordphoto.club) continues through spring with talks, presentations, competitions and practical sessions. We meet on Thursdays from 7pm at Crowmarsh Pavilion, with a handful of sessions online during the season. The programme in April begins with a Club day out on Saturday 11th. Location TBC but we have had excellent trips recently to Bath, Paddington Basin and Bristol. Then on the 16th at the Pavilion we will review our images from the day out. 23 April will be a review of the season's themed assignments, and the month closes on 30th with a talk on wildlife photography by Drew Burnett.

PANGBOURNE CHORAL SOCIETY, ST JOHN PASSION

On Saturday 28 March, 7pm at Falkland Islands Memorial Chapel, Pangbourne College, PCS will be performing Bach's *St John Passion* for the first time since 2008, in what promises to be a spectacular return to one of the great choral classics. The Choir will be joined by the superb Chameleon Arts Orchestra, who have performed with PCS many times. Tickets, £20, (£5 for under 18) are available from Garlands Organic, Natural, Pangbourne, from PCS website, and PCS members, and on the door.

CHARITY FROG RACING EVENT, WOODCOTE

Join us for an exciting and fun packed Charity Frog Race evening on Saturday, 9 May from 7pm at Woodcote Village Hall. Get ready to cheer as the jockeys race their look-a-like amphibians down the course, Want to be a race owner and/or jockey? Don't delay, slots now up for sale! Also available for local traders, 1/8th advertising slots in the race card. Exciting racing, tote betting, bar and raffle. Tickets £15 (inc. supper). To purchase race owner, jockey slots, advertising or tickets contact Robsan.evans@btinternet.com or text 07715 136326. Proceeds raised will help to install toilets and upgrade facilities at St Leonard's Church, Woodcote.

WITHYMEAD ON TOUR 2026

Join us at our third and final 'On Tour' Coffee Shop at the Woodcote Community Centre 10am-12.30pm, on Saturday 28 March. We'll have our delicious signature cakes and bakes, tea and coffee for sale, plus second-hand books, merchandise, and another great raffle. Enjoy some very good cake and help us toward our £115k target to replace the last section of our old precarious wooden boardwalk and footbridge so that everyone can enjoy the freedom of being outdoors. The Coffee Shop is in the community centre next to the Library, on the Reading Road in Woodcote. Join us to find out why it matters, what your support will achieve, and the difference it will make.

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Tuesday 24 March

Chess Club. Children 4.45-5.45pm, adults/full Games 6-7pm. GL, Drop in.

Wednesday 25 March

• **The Arts Society, Goring.** 11am and 2pm, GVH. See *Naples & Die – History of the City through its Archaeology, Art and Architecture*. Speaker: Mike Clegg. Guests welcome £5 through prior booking email: info@theartssocietygoring.org.uk

• **Public meeting:** A greener way to go. 7.30pm. BR. See P5.

Thursday 26 March

• **Goring Gap U3a.** 10.30am-12noon, GVH. Speaker: Fran Sandham: *African Animal Encounter*.

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

Friday 27 March

Passia, The Passion retold through women's voices. 6-7.15pm, St Thomas' Church. See P39.

Saturday 28 March–Saturday 11 April

Easter Activities. Library. Cherry Blossom and Shushi. Celebrate Spring and Japan. Crafts and trail every day. Drop in.

Sunday 29 March

Quiz Night. 7pm, GSC.

Monday 30 March

Easter Holiday Fun Day. 11am-3pm, St Thomas' Church. See P39.

Wednesday 1 April

• **Goring Village Green Fingers.** 7.30pm, SL. Kate Cheng – *The new garden at Goring Library*.

• **Knit & Natter** 3-5pm, Drop in. Held weekly, GSC.

• **Stay & Play.** 10-11.15am. Toddler Group and Rhyme-Time for pre-school children. GL, Drop in. Every 1st Wednesday of the month.

• **Story and Craft.** 10-11am, Library. Story and craft session with Rosie. 4yrs + Please Book. 10 max.

• **Chess Match.** 2.30– 3.30pm, Library. Try and beat Dave (ex county player) at chess. He will play multiple games at once. Can you beat him? Book, max 10.

Thursday 2 April

Goring Mobile Post Office. 8-11.30am, Westholme stores, Wallingford Rd. Every Thursday.

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

Friday 3 April

• **Goring & Streatley Wine Society.** 8pm, GVH. Preet Sahota: Edmond Wines, New Zealand. Enquiries email gswinesoc@gmail.com See P15.

• **Bingo, Meat draw,** GSC. Held weekly.

Saturday 4 April

• **Easter Saturday breakfast.** 9.30-11.30am, FCH. Pop into the Free Church for breakfast. See P29.

• **5Aside Chess.** 10-11.30am, Library. Drop in.

• **Withymead Loddon Lillies.** 10-5pm. Also 12, 19, 26 April. See P39 and Easter Trail P29.

Tuesday 7 April

Goring Mobile Post Office. 1.30-4pm, Westholme stores, Wallingford Rd. Every Tuesday.

• **The Goring Carers Group Club.** 10.30 – 12noon, GSC. Drop-in or contact Hilary Dobson [01491 872063](tel:01491872063)

• **Champions League Quarter Finals.** Live on big screen. GSC. Also Wednesday.

Wednesday 8 April

• **The Arts Society, Goring.** 11am, GVH. *Monet – the man, his paintings and his gardens*. Speaker: Caroline Holmes Special interest day for members only. email: info@theartssocietygoring.org.uk

• **Cribbage.** 7.30pm, GSC.

• **The Soundbar Open Mic,** The Miller of Mansfield. Sign up to play from 7.30pm. Music 8-10pm. Come along or get in touch, HelloSoundbar@gmail.com

• **Cleeve by Goring WI.** 7.30pm, SL. Brian Graham: Beeswax Candle Making Workshop. Contact Katrina Cooper, [01491 875334](tel:01491875334)

• **Goring Gap News.** Copy deadline for May events. News and articles of local interest to goringgapnews@gmail.com

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

Thursday 9 April

Storytime. 10:30-11.00am, Library. Drop In. Every Thursday.

Saturday 11 April

Caribbean Night, from 7.30pm GSC. See P39.

Sunday 12 April

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

Monday 13 April

Goring and Streatley Bridge Club. 6.45pm, GVH. Held every Monday.

Tuesday 14 April

• **Parkinsons Group,** 10.30am-12noon, GSC. Drop in or contact James Dobson [01491 872063](tel:01491872063)

• **Champions League on the big Screen.** Also Wednesday. GSC.

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

Wednesday 15 April

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

• **Goring Gap Players.** 8pm, GVH. Oscar Wilde's, *An Ideal Husband*, nightly until Saturday 18 April. GVH. See P39.

Thursday 16 April

Pick a Flick. 10.30am-2pm, CR. *The Windermere Children*. Contact Sarah

Fraser [01491 871838](tel:01491871838) or Jenny Boyd [01491 872109](tel:01491872109) to book and to ask for transport if required. Cost £5 including a light lunch.

Sunday 19 April

Piano recital. 4pm, St Mary's Church, Streatley. Recital by Max Mostovetski on his UK tour. Tickets £12, concessions £10. On the door only, no cards.

Monday 20 April

Goring Gap Local History Soc. 2.30pm, GVH. Malcolm Summers: *Greyfriars, Reading: Prison to parish church*. Contact Janet Hurst, goringgaphistory@gmail.com

Tuesday 21 April

• **The Bereavement Journey.** A seven week course begins at St Thomas' Church. See P39.

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

Wednesday 22 April

• **The Arts Society, Goring.** 11am and 2pm, GVH. *The Three Hares – A Curiosity Worth Regarding*. Speaker: Dr Sue Andrew.

• **Cooking Demo, Torie True.** 7.30pm, Garden Room (GVH). Talk and demo with tasting. £15 per person. See P17.

Friday 24 April

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

Saturday 25 April

50th Anniversary open day. 10am-3pm Goring Fire Station. See P5.

• **FA Cup Semi Finals.** Live on Big Screen. GSC. Also Sunday.

• **Live music with Sub Zero.** 8pm GSC. See page.

• **Goring Sailing Club Open Day.** See P39.

Sunday 26 April

Genie News copy deadline. Genie is published twice a month. Email us: news@genienews.org

Tuesday 28 April

Chess Club. Children 4.45– 5.45pm Adults/full games 6-7pm, Library. Drop in.

Thursday 30 April

Goring Gap U3a. 10.30am-12noon, GVH. Speaker: Daniel Keel: *Swans*. 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 Library	GL
Goring Social Club	GSC
Goring Village Hall	GVH
Morrell Room	MR
Storton Lodge	SL



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St Thomas' churchyard in February



Photo: Drina Wright

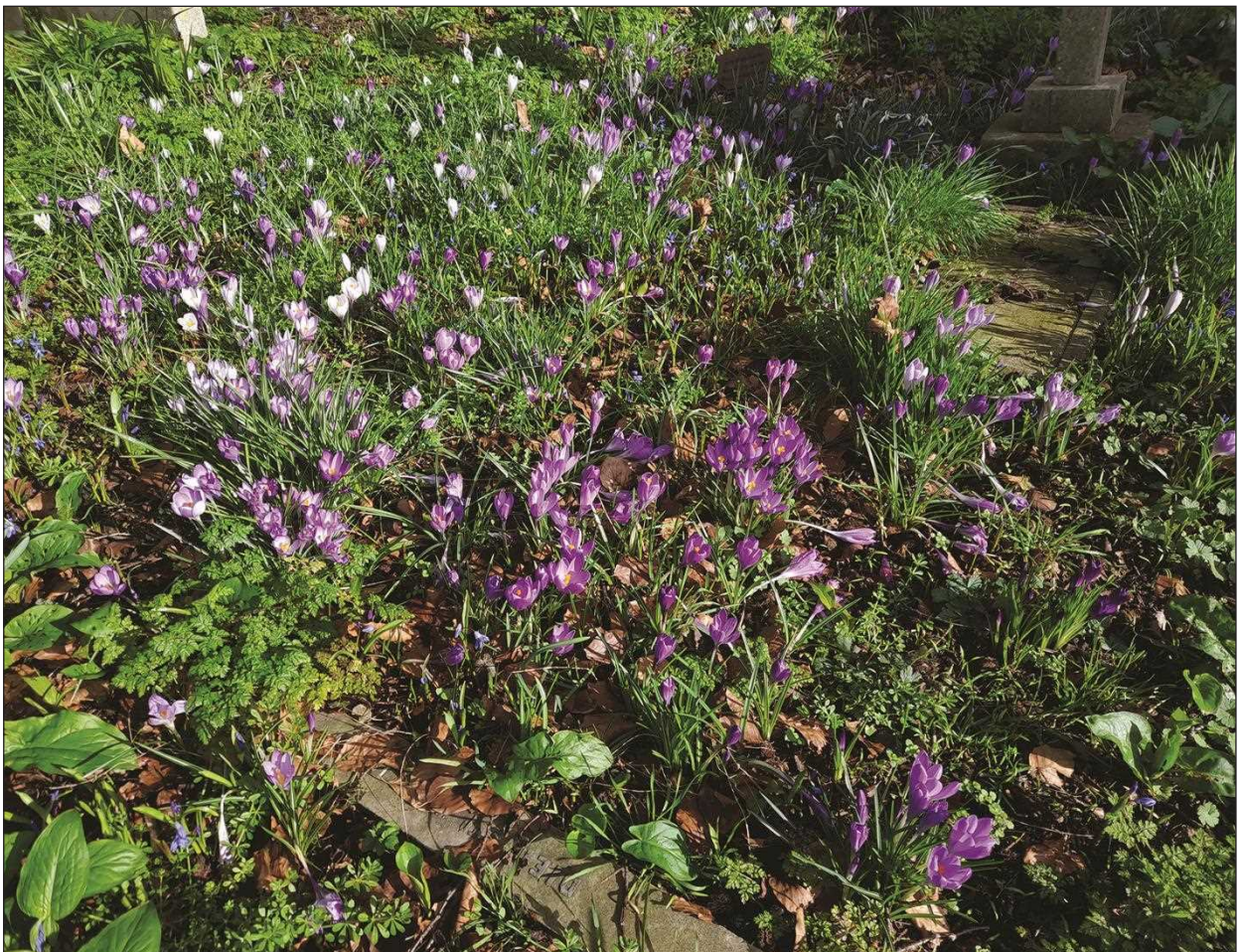


Photo: Pauline Garrett

Mobland shooting



Film crew in White Hill Burial Ground. See P3.

The oak tree in The Swan car park



See letter on P19