

Goring Gap News

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

A towering achievement



Dunkirk little ship L'Orage passes under Tower Bridge. See P22-23

A welcome drink for a Gap hedgehog



Photo: Dougal Thornton

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Goring Gap News

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

Deadline for next issue: 6 August

Distribution

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

August 2025 weekend of 23/24

September 2025 weekend of 20/21

October 2025 weekend of 18/19

If your copy has not arrived after five days

contact Victoria Brandon. (See above.)

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GRAPEVINE

Bourdillon Playground opens

The newly refurbished playground on the Bourdillon Field plans to open on 24 July at 11am. Goring-on-Thames Parish Council would love as many children as possible to visit the playground this summer and have fun exploring this exciting 'enchanted playland'.

Availability at The Morrell Room

The beautiful Streatley village hall – The Morrell Room – wishes to let GGN readers know that it now has some availability on weekdays. This might be of interest to anyone looking to run a regular group or class in the Goring Gap.

Currently we have no regular bookings on Tuesdays between 11am and 3.30pm, Thursdays between 11.30am and 7.30pm, and Fridays all day. The hall is also sometimes available on Friday evenings and at the weekend; ideal for children's parties, family gatherings and other one-off events.

The Morrell Room is in Church Lane, just before the river bridges cross to Goring and comprises a large hall with a wooden floor, toilets and fully equipped kitchen. Flexible staging is available. The Morrell Room can also hire out crockery, chairs and tables.

To find out more, visit the Morrell Room website: www.morrellroom.org or contact the caretaker, Andy Taylor, on info@morrellroom.org or 01491 873855

Mobility equipment available in Goring

Are you aware that we have mobility equipment in Goring to help local people on a short-term basis? Two of us have run this facility voluntarily for a number of years. We hold a limited amount of equipment to assist anyone local who is in need of help over a short time scale. Equipment includes all sorts of walking aids, toilet frames, raised toilet seats in a frame, shower and perching stools, wheelchairs, commodes, bed rests and more. To enquire please contact Brenda Barker 01491 872736 or Mary Carr 01491 874333.

Whitchurch Hill Fête fund invites applications

The Whitchurch Hill Village Fête is a popular event attended by many people from across South Oxfordshire and West Berkshire. The Fête fund currently holds approximately £3,000 available for distribution to deserving causes within the parishes in the surrounding area.

Funding priorities

Priority for funding will be given to projects or asset purchases that:

- Provide a direct benefit to the local community
- Do not receive direct financial support from local government sources

If you are part of a community group, organisation, or initiative with a proposal that fits these criteria—whether it's for equipment, resources, or a new activity that will enhance community life—we'd love to hear from you.

How to apply

To request an application form, please write to Peter Burdon, parish councillor in Goring Heath, at cllr.peter.burdon@goringheathparishcouncil.gov.uk

Peter will be happy to guide you through the application process and to answer any questions about eligibility or the types of projects the fund can support.

Let's make a difference together

The Whitchurch Hill Village Fête fund is a testament to what a community can achieve. If you know of a good cause that could benefit from a helping hand, don't hesitate to get in touch or tip off someone you know in the community.

Road closure in East Ilsley from 29 July

Access from the Gap to the A34 south via East Ilsley will be disrupted from 29 July – 2 September. There will be road closures on the road between Compton and East Ilsley, due to Thames Water replacing pipes. This may continue into September. The diversion is rather long, so consider taking the alternative Hermitage route to the A34 south.



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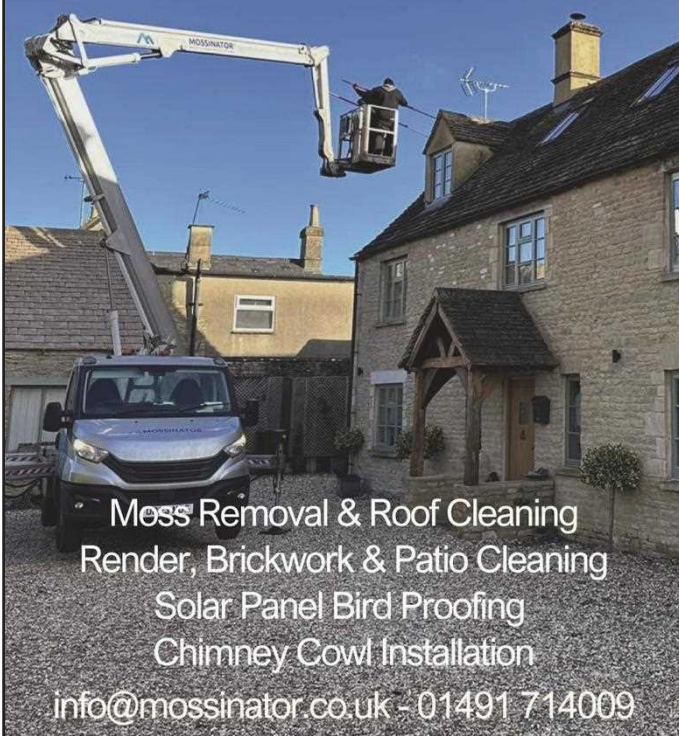
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Where does GGN come from?

GGN arrives in letterboxes once a month throughout The Gap, a glossy magazine of 40+ pages, full of information about the people, places and events of The Gap community – and all for free. In a time when print newspapers and magazines are disappearing, the people of The Gap can still have a local magazine on the table to browse with their morning coffee. Some people keep their GGNs indefinitely, but if you are inclined to clutter-less living, GGN is fully recyclable as the inks are all plant based and the paper it is printed on can be deinked to be used again.

So now you know how to get rid of your unwanted GGNs, we can consider where this monthly freebie comes from. The words and photos come mainly from local people – taking the time to write in with their news and experiences, letters and achievements. The five GGN editors encourage contributions and prepare articles for publication throughout the month. After the copy date the virtual pile of articles and photos are put together by the production team to create the GGN master. Alongside the articles, the team create the advertisement pages and the events and diary pages. Everything is proof-read and adjusted before it can go to the printer. Up to this point GGN has needed ten volunteers (and we need more, so come and talk to us if you'd like to be part of this).

The printer is not a volunteer – GGN has to pay for printing. This involves money and for this we are indebted to our advertisers. Please tell an advertiser if you use them after finding them in GGN, it helps to encourage adverts and keep GGN solvent. This vital funding stream is run by our volunteer advertising and invoicing managers. We also get some income from sales (yes, some people want to pay for GGN) at Inspiration and Westholme Stores and by subscription, organised by another volunteer. GGN is a company with directors overseeing it, so we have a Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer, all volunteers. We have an IT system designed and maintained by a megastar volunteer who is looking for help. So now we are up to 17 volunteers, but we have barely started.

The really mysterious bit is how the 2256 copies that come back from the printer make it to all The Gap letterboxes without costing any more (apart from during COVID-19 when GGN was posted out, in a commendable spirit of defiance but involving some expense). The secret is a tier system which trickles down in a waterfall of goodwill, cooperation and GGNs. It works because people are willing to volunteer to help to bring GGN to their neighbours.

The person at the source of the waterfall is GGN's distribution manager, Victoria Brandon. She is relatively new to the job and The Gap and is bravely trying to map the routes of the streams to every letter box, including the names of all the volunteers that walk/drive them. (Yes, drive, because Streatley wanders off into the great outdoors of the countryside, but GGN gets there, even if left in a plastic bag at the end of a lane.) Victoria has discovered cooperative agreements to cover holidays or illness, involving closet volunteers that GGN has never known or thanked. Alongside mapping the GGN waterfall, Victoria is checking that the correct number of copies get to each deliverer, so as to maximise convenience and minimise waste.

So far, she has found 51 volunteers currently involved in delivering GGN (excluding their partners who are often carrying the stacks of magazines prior to being pushed through letter boxes), giving the total number of current GGN volunteers to be approximately 68.

If you would like to be part of the amazing band of delivery volunteers, please email Victoria at ggndistribution@gmail.com and tell her how you could help – occasional help is welcome as well as monthly.

Volunteer now and be prepared for the inevitable question: 'What did you do at GGN?'

Editor



2,500 Goring Gap News

Photo: Victoria Brandon

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Unplugged newcomers in a full house

The month of June ended with another full house for the popular concert series Goring Unplugged in Goring Village Hall. Compère Joe Fairbrother began by asking the crowd ‘Who is here for the first time?’ and a number of people raised their hands, showing that GU continues to attract new audiences after 22 years of performances!

The night’s event began with a lively performance by the group Out on Licence, followed by the antics of popular local trio Harlequin, who, wearing bright summer shirts, celebrated the season with a self-penned humorous ditty called *Goring Calypso*.

Phil and Nell are a duo making their first appearance at Goring Unplugged, but will no doubt return, as the audience really appreciated their music and style. For some reason there are few female harmonica players, and it was a pleasure to hear Nell’s beautiful phrasing on this ancient instrument.



Vagabond - Fay and Kevin

currently recording for a new album and the evening closed with a remarkable performance by Andy Baum and Andy Taylor who played an incredible instrumental arrangement of The Beatles’ songs on mandolin and violin. They included a prize for the audience member who could name the Beatles’ albums that included these songs!

The low admission price of only £5 and inviting the audience to bring their own food and drinks makes Goring Unplugged an inexpensive evening out. The volunteers who set up the stage and tables make it a friendly community event.

After the summer break, the next concert will be on Friday 26 September, as we launch the 23rd season of Goring Unplugged.

Rebecca Jennings

Goring Jazz – Ewen Baird and Kevin Armstrong

‘Blues in Jazz’ was the headline under which saxophonist Ewen Baird and guitarist Kevin Armstrong joined the house trio on Friday 13 June. The two guests had last played together in Goring two years ago.

For anyone who still does not know, the blues is a specific 12-bar sequence based on just three chords. Its origins lie in the call-and-response chanting of the slaves working in the cotton-fields of the American south. Although this lies at the heart of jazz, that music has, from its earliest days, always drawn on many other sources: marching bands, hymns, stage musical. So, devoting a whole evening to the 12-bar blues alone would be a bit of a stretch.

Happily, variety was added by, among other things, two ballads from Steve Foster, jazz photographer and part-time vocalist, who pretended to be just a member of the audience as he hesitantly picked up the microphone. He gave us a delightful Sinatra-esque *Angel Eyes*, and evoked Johnny Mathis in *When Sunny Gets Blue*.

The rest of the programme was largely drawn from the funky post-bop repertoire; though with some exceptions: Dave Brubeck’s *It’s a Raggy Waltz* comprised two 12-bar sections and an 8-bar bridge. *Sandu*, by trumpeter Clifford Brown, was a jaunty and easy-swinging number from the 1950s. The mambo-ish *Green Tea* was not a 12-bar, but Ewen Baird’s alto sax solo was certainly blues-inflected.

Footprints was a playful little theme in a fast $\frac{3}{4}$ time, which gave all the musicians a chance to shine – including a riffing duet between bass and drums.

Both Armstrong on guitar and Baird on tenor sax were particularly inventive on this number, which also featured Nick Hill’s locked-hands piano solo.

An enjoyable evening, yes, but for me the self-imposed restriction was not such a great idea.

Gus McGill



Harlequin

Dreamsellers filled the stage with a large ensemble of musicians and singers, and in contrast were followed

by the popular duo Vagabond, with Fay Freemantle and Kevin Bull. This duo showed how to perform at an acoustic concert. You could hear every word of their pure singing and they had attractive accompaniments on a variety of instruments. Three members of Band of Hope played some songs they are



Andy Baum and Andy Taylor



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MUSIC and ARTS continued

Goring and Streatley Concert Band seeks new MD

Could you lead our local Concert Band?

Goring and Streatley Concert Band – well loved by residents of both villages and the surrounding area, is seeking a new Music Director to start with the band in late September/early October.

As readers will know, we are a friendly community band of around 35 woodwind, brass and percussion players with a wide range of ages and abilities. We play a varied repertoire of music including tunes from musicals, marches, light (and sometimes less light) classical music, rock anthems and other great tunes.



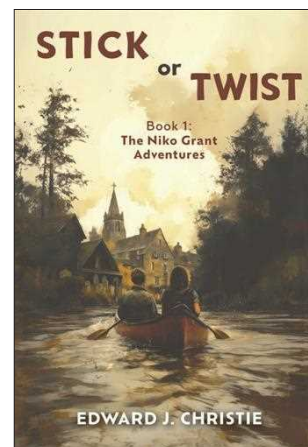
The band rehearses in Goring on Monday evenings, and performs six or seven times a year, mainly during the summer months, at local fêtes, regattas and parks. We also hold two more formal concerts a year, one at Christmas, and another in the spring.

If this sounds of interest, for more information why not get in touch via the 'Contact us' link on the band website www.goringandstreatleyband.co.uk You will receive more information about the band, the role and responsibilities of the MD, the selection criteria and the application process.

Goring author has teen adventure novel published

The first of a trilogy of exciting adventure stories for teenagers, written by Goring author Edward Christie, has recently been published. This is a thrilling, action-packed, modern day chase escapade, called *Stick or Twist – Book 1: The Niko Grant Adventures*, available now from bookshops.

Edward Christie has lived beside the River Thames for decades and in Goring for many of those years. This majestic waterway has inspired him to make it the setting for these adventure stories, to capture the interest and imagination of young teenagers and to get them reading rather than screen watching. This first novel, just published by Austin Macauley, was much inspired by a canoeing trip he made down the Thames when he was just 10 years old along with his father, Martin, and family friends and he unknowingly passed through Goring. Little did he know that both he and his father would both make their homes in our village in the years to come. Their journey from Oxford to Henley was far less adventurous, arduous and dangerous than one undertaken by his teenage heroes, Niko and Jacinta, but it left a lasting memory and it is the catalyst for this story.



Full of twists and turns, *Stick or Twist* starts just outside Goring and takes in many of the extraordinary locations along our magnificent River Thames from Oxfordshire all the way up to London.

After spending most of his career in the world of book publishing, in a moment of inspiration (or madness) Edward undertook a dramatic career change and retrained to become a GCSE English teacher at Reading College. The writing of *Stick or Twist* was stimulated by the original thinking, chat and imaginations of the many young people he met while teaching.

Edward saw a need for a greater choice of absorbing adventure stories for teenagers and feels that *Stick or Twist* is just the sort of book to engage young minds. It is primarily aimed at 12–14-year-old boys and girls but he has also very much enjoyed giving sample readings at Goring Primary School to Year 6 pupils. There is more about this book on Instagram [@nikograndadventures](https://www.instagram.com/nikograndadventures)

Seascape in oils demonstration

Join the friendly Wallingford and District Art club on Tuesday 19 August at 7.30pm for a live demonstration as professional artist, Melanie Cambridge, paints a beautiful seascape in oils. Inspired by scenery near her North Downs home, Melanie will show us vibrant techniques to capture both light and texture to bring a seascape to life. The demonstration will be held at Centre 70 (off Goldsmiths Lane in Wallingford) from 7.30pm-9.30pm and is free for club members or £5 for visitors. If you would like further information about this event or other club activities, please visit the club website at www.wallingfordartclub.org.uk or email admin@wallingfordartclub.org.uk



Nicola Webb

Melanie Cambridge Seascape



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MUSIC and ARTS continued

The GSYMT Brass Roots Ensemble – launching September 2025

The Goring and Streatley Young Musicians Trust (GSYMT) is delighted to announce the launch the first of its new ensembles – the Brass Roots Ensemble, starting this September and with optional private lessons available too. Whether you've recently just started playing or returning after a break, the Brass Roots Ensemble offers an excellent opportunity for players of all ages to develop ensemble playing and confidence through participation in a welcoming and supportive community setting. It also offers an ideal stepping stone for those who might not be quite ready to join the Goring and Streatley Starter Band or one of the many brass bands in the area.

The Brass Roots Ensemble will be led by a brass specialist from the Oxfordshire County Music Service and the sessions will be held weekly during the school term at Goring Village Hall on Wednesdays at 4.30pm. You'll explore new repertoire tailored to match your level, while building confidence and enjoying the shared experience of ensemble playing – all under the expert guidance of a specialist brass tutor. We will also invite experienced local players to sit-in, so you will always have good support by having more proficient players in the room. Parents and family members are also welcome to sit in, or dust down their own instruments or even to learn alongside their children!



Optional one-to-one or small group lessons will also be available (subject to demand) before and/or after ensemble rehearsals, offering even more chances to build your experience and to improve.

Ensemble fees (introductory offer if booked and paid for by 1 September)

- £10 per child for the term
- £20 per adult for the term

Lessons (introductory offer if booked and paid for by 1 September)

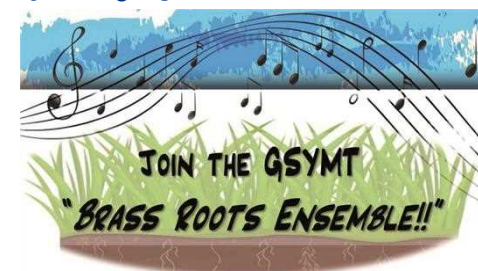
- £25 for a block of five sessions for children
- £50 for a block of five lessons for adults

(Whilst the ensemble will be very much a community ensemble of all ages, lessons will be taught either 1:1 or in small groups of either children or adults. Groups size will be subject to demand and availability.)

We'd also love to hear from string and woodwind players. Planning is underway for future ensembles for these groups too starting in early 2026 – so if that's more you, then please do use the same form to indicate your interest and we will keep you informed

Register your interest via the form on our website here: www.goringandstreatleyymt.co.uk or you can email us info@goringandstreatleyymt.co.uk if you have any queries.

Thank you for your interest and we hope to see many of you playing soon.



Goring and Streatley Young Musicians Trust

It's cool to be into books

It has been – quite – hot (just in case you hadn't noticed). And whatever the weather, it's always cool to sit down with a book.

Friends of Goring Library supports reading for all ages. At the end of June, we enjoyed a brilliant evening with best-selling author Gill Hornby. The Morrell Room was full even though it was a baking hot day. Gill talked to us about her inspiration for her books, which centre on her personal heroine, Cassandra, Jane Austen's sister. Gill's intense research (including many hours spent deciphering diaries in Maidstone Library) have given her great insight into the lives of women in the Georgian period and have borne fruit in three great books, one of which (Miss Austen) has already been made into a TV serial, starring Keeley Hawes. The latest book (The Elopement) is a Sunday Times bestseller. All Gill's books are available to borrow from the library. Do pop in to borrow one – or to browse the shelves – new books arrive every month so there is always something there that you haven't seen before.

And if you're a younger reader – see if you can join Kate in reading up to six books in the Summer Reading Challenge from 5 July to 6 September. Come and find out about the characters in the 'Story Garden' join in the activities (all free but some have to be booked – see our website www.fogl-oxon.co.uk - and collect stickers along the way. If you complete the challenge, you get a medal and a certificate and can enter a prize draw to win a goodie bag. You might even want a framed picture of yourself: Kate did! What's not to like?

So be cool in the summer heat and read a book!



Kate with the Reading Challenge photo opportunity

Photo: Sara Boorman

Sara Boorman

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Westholme Stores (Jack's)

A warm hello from the new owners

It's hard to believe it's already been three incredible months since Thushy and I took over Jack's Westholme Stores, and what a fantastic journey it has been so far. We are immensely grateful for the warm welcome and positive engagement we've received from all of you. Your friendliness and support have been truly heartening, and we are thrilled to be part of the Goring community.

Who we are

For those we haven't yet had the pleasure of meeting, we're former Co-op store managers from London with a deep passion for local retail and community connection. While we still commute from London to be close to our family, we are committed to ensuring that Jack's store continues to meet and exceed customer needs, thanks to our fantastic team.

Honouring the legacy

We know how much Jack and Varsha meant to this community and they're never far away. While they've passed the torch, they're still around and continue to offer their support. We're honoured to carry on their legacy and we're committed to maintaining the same spirit of service and care that you've come to know and love.

What's new at Jack's?

New store hours – you asked, we listened. We've extended our opening hours to serve your needs better:

Monday to Saturday: 6am-9pm, Sunday: 6am-8pm. More hours mean more convenience for your busy lifestyle. We're continually working to make Jack's Westholme Stores your go-to local hub for all your daily needs. Here's what we now offer:

- A wide range of essentials – groceries, fresh vegetables, ready meals
- Local beers – a curated selection from nearby breweries
- Parcel services – Royal Mail, Amazon, In Post and DPD
- Calor gas, laundry cleaning and newspaper delivery – convenience at your doorstep
- Jack's specials and Londis offers – great value, every day.

Supporting our community

We are committed to supporting local charities in the Goring area. If you are involved with a local charity or know of one that could benefit from our support, please don't hesitate to reach out to us. We would love to hear about how we can collaborate to make a positive impact in our community.

Check out the attached photo of Thushy and me. Although we haven't yet had the chance to take a group photo with our fantastic team due to time constraints, rest assured, they are just as committed and enthusiastic behind the scenes! Thank you once again for your continued support and for being such a wonderful community. We look forward to seeing you in the store soon.

Daran and Thushy

New ice cream company comes to Goring

Two local guys have set up an ice cream company. Hartslock Traditional Ice Cream is run by Derek Anderson, of Hartslock Close and Brett Page, of Cleeve Road, Goring. Derek, the former landlord of The Bull at Streatley, and Brett, who works in commercial strategy, both came up with the idea of setting up an ice cream company while at the gym together. Being, in Brett's words, 'typical men', they procrastinated for a year before deciding to launch their joint enterprise in June this year. Their first sale was at Goring Primary School Fête and they have since sold their ice cream outside the Social Club, the Catherine Wheel and Goring Village Hall.

They decided on the name Hartslock because they wanted their business to reflect the local area and they didn't think 'Cleeve' was quite as inspiring! Brett says they went round and round in circles with the name but their goal was clear: to have a regular spot in the village (ideally in the centre) where they could sell ice creams from their handcart on hot sunny days.



Daran and Thushy - Jack's new owners Photo: Gaju Thushy



Derek and Brett

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BUSINESS continued

They are also eager to do private events such as weddings and parties as well as corporate and larger public events too. Brett says: 'If we could wheel our way in this area that would be great!'

The reception to their ice creams certainly hasn't been icy. He says: 'One family saw us on social media and eight or nine of them came down. I feel bad for the dad who paid for them all, but it was nice!'

You can find Hartslock Traditional Ice Cream outside Goring Village Hall on most sunny days. To book them for events email DEIClimited@gmail.com

Dan Gordon-Potts

A fresh new look and visitors are welcome

Following an elegant renovation, the Heritage Lounge Bar at Goring & Streatley Golf Club is back and better than ever, offering the perfect blend of comfort and charm. The recently installed furnishings and new decor have transformed our lounge into a refined and comfortable setting for both members and visitors. Featuring luxurious seating, contemporary tables and a thoughtfully designed layout, the updated space offers an inviting atmosphere for conversation and relaxation.

Our kitchen serves a delicious daytime menu 8am-4pm daily, featuring a hearty breakfast, a light lunch or a leisurely afternoon bite. The bar remains open until sunset. Join us every Wednesday evening 4-9pm for our freshly prepared midweek specials, from handcrafted pizzas to gourmet burgers. Throughout the year there are lunch specials, showcasing seasonal flavours and fresh ingredients. No booking required.



Goring & Streatley Golf Club Lounge Bar

The Hut

At the top of Streatley Hill, the Hut is open daily, serving coffee, cakes, ice creams, our famous homemade sausage rolls and paninis. Perfect for walkers and passers-by looking for a pick-me-up with a view.

The Woodlands Restaurant

Sunday lunch is available at The Woodlands Restaurant on the upper floor of the clubhouse, overlooking the golf course. Two courses are only £27, £14 for children. Our beautifully styled restaurant offers a welcoming space for both intimate gatherings and larger celebrations and can be booked for social events.

The suite offers ample natural light and space to accommodate both large and small groups, and its flexible layout can be configured in various ways to suit the style of your function and the number of guests attending. There is a dedicated bar.

We can provide food to suit all tastes, from buffets and canapes to a sumptuous sit-down meal, all prepared by our expert chefs. Whilst all of our food is locally sourced and home-cooked, our menus are designed to cater for all tastes and are very reasonably priced.

All are welcome, whether you're a familiar face or discovering us for the first time. Come and enjoy the relaxed atmosphere and stunning new interior—ideal for everything from a casual drink to special celebrations.

The doors are open. The drinks are flowing. The vibe is unmistakably welcoming. See you soon.

Fiona Tessendorf
Functions and Events Manager

Artisan market organiser: 'A lot gets lost in the meta, in the algorithm'

The organiser of the Artisan Market in Goring Village Hall has spoken to the *GGN* about the importance of supporting small local businesses and tradespeople. Andrea Clare, who lives in Theale and recently retired from Thames Valley Police, says that she set up the market after getting into jewellery-making, doing a silversmith course and realising that there weren't many places where she could sell her work. She says that many of the traders who deal with her also sell online with websites like Etsy, but that it is difficult to spread the word about their businesses: 'A lot gets lost in the meta, in the algorithm'.

She explains that her artisan markets, which run in Goring and Cholsey, provide a space for a wide array of local produce to be sold. From fresh bread, Viking mead and chocolate, to artwork, natural cleaning products and locally made ceramics, she says: 'You name it, and they probably sell it. Business owners of all kinds, from full-time traders to part-time and retired craftspeople, have the opportunity to get to know each other, share advice and meet their customers face-to-face.'

Andrea adds: 'The products are unique, all handmade. We're going down a route where everything is machine-made, but these are unique things that people can't get from a supermarket. They are individual, people have developed these, there's someone else's personality and history, as well as the product.' She tells me that the first two sales have been a success, with over 450 people coming through the doors, and she looks forward to holding more until December. She is also open to welcoming more stallholders to join her. If you're interested, email her at andreaclare07@gmail.com

The next sale will take place on 13-14 September, Saturday 9am-2pm and Sunday 10am-3pm. Three more will take place on 5 October, 15 November, and 20 December.

Dan Gordon-Potts



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BUSINESS continued

Branching out to 'green up' Goring High Street

After nearly 30 years designing and creating award-winning gardens, The Garden Design Company has opened The Garden Design Studio on Goring High Street to offer a fabulous space for the public and garden designers to seek inspiration and discuss their garden projects.

Crucially, the Studio provides a chance to touch, feel and compare a range of stunning materials. Materials range from natural stone to composite decking and are nestled alongside gorgeous garden furniture, including some recently featured at RHS Chelsea Flower Show.

Portfolios and magazine articles that chronicle the award-winning creations of The Garden Design Company are also available to browse and inspire, with our in-house design team readily available to offer face-to-face advice.

Meanwhile, the front of house has been transformed into a stunning and unique retail shop with a fabulous range of English grown house plants, locally-sourced cut flowers from Green & Gorgeous, living picture frames, bonsais, garden gifts, accessories including ceramics and glassware, plus quality tools including Niwaki.

The emphasis is on UK-produced goods from small producers, to ensure that the shop's offering is truly unique, eye-catching and sustainable (with plastic being kept to a minimum).

Founder and Director, Rob Jones comments: 'The new Studio provides us with a unique High Street presence and a fabulous new home for our in-house design team and back-office staff. The stunning range of materials and advice on offer will inspire garden owners and fellow designers alike, transforming garden problems into garden solutions.'

'Meanwhile, the retail shop has already turned many heads with a mouthwatering range of house plants, garden accessories and gorgeous gifts. And whilst many High Streets are facing challenging times, the new Studio will build on the fabulous range of independent shops, cafés and restaurants that Goring is already blessed with.'



Rob and Sophie outside The Garden Design Studio

The Garden Design Company
www.gardendesignco.co.uk

AA Rosettes for the Beetle & Wedge

The Beetle & Wedge at Moulsoford has recently been honoured with AA Rosettes for its culinary excellence and exceptional accommodations. This prestigious recognition, announced in April 2025, highlights the restaurant's commitment to delivering outstanding food and a remarkable stay.

The AA Rosette scheme, established in 1956, is one of the most respected accolades in the UK hospitality industry. It celebrates successful cooking and accommodations at different levels, with inspectors assessing restaurants and hotels based on their food quality, service and overall experience. Achieving AA Rosettes is a significant milestone. Congratulations!

MEDICAL INFORMATION

- **Doctor**—to contact a doctor between 8am and 6.30pm ring [01491 872372](tel:01491872372). When the surgery is not open, at night and at weekends (i.e. 6.30pm-8am Monday to Friday and throughout the weekend and Bank Holidays) [111](tel:111). This number is also available on the surgery answerphone. You may be asked to attend Abingdon Hospital, or Townlands Hospital in Henley. For the most up-to-date information see www.goringwoodcotemedicalpractice.nhs.uk
- **Nearest Casualty Department:** Royal Berkshire Hospital, Reading [0118 322 7020](tel:01183227020)
- **Nearest First Aid Units:** Townland Hospital, Henley [01865 903755](tel:01865903755), or Abingdon Community Hospital [01865 903476](tel:01865903476)
- **NHS Direct** is available for medical advice 24 hours a day, on [111](tel:111). Your local pharmacy can also offer you a range of services, including advice and medicines to relieve symptoms of minor ailments.
- **Emergency Dentist** – Weekdays 6.30pm-10pm, Weekends and Bank Holidays 9am-9pm. [0845 345 8995](tel:08453458995)
- **Goring medical equipment** – Equipment including, wheelchairs, toilet aids, mobility aids and more. [01491 872736](tel:01491872736) or [874333](tel:01491874333) anytime.
- **Transport Office** – Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday (10am - 12noon) to arrange transport to local surgeries, dentists and hospitals. [01491 873565](tel:01491873565).

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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

Cycling route to Wallingford needed

Dear Editor—I was very disappointed to read Ivor Coleman's response in June *GGN* to Steve Rock's article about local cycling on Pages 22-23 of May *GGN*.

There simply isn't enough road space in Goring any longer so we must shift people out of their cars and on to other forms of transport. The High Streets in both Goring and Streatley are regularly jammed by cars and lorries.

The next generation must be allowed to travel in safety and cycling is easily the most convenient way to do that. Without a shift in attitudes this will not be achieved and our young people will not take up cycling as children and therefore risk becoming inactive in adult life, relying on the car and never considering alternatives.

Goring Parish Council now boasts no less than six members who travel around the village by bike. In order to make cycling safer for other (less confident) people to switch, car free routes are essential.

The route to Wallingford is desperately needed. Mr Coleman dismisses safety concerns; would you be happy allowing your children to cycle along Wallingford Road and be passed by drivers at 50mph, sometimes closely?

I hope this letter highlights why we need a shift in transport and a shift in attitudes. Do we want more cars on our roads or do we want a healthy population using the least environmentally damaging form of transport!

Cllr Robin Williamson

Youngsters not able to cycle

Dear Editor—I am surprised at Ivor Coleman's response in the June *Goring Gap News* to the article about cycling in Goring from May.

Youngsters are not able to cycle as much as they should due to the rampant need to drive everywhere and the resulting busy roads, so many are driven by parents much too often. Anyone who has been near Sheepcot can vouch for that, as can anyone who has cycled the beautiful country lanes, where close passes are sadly too common.

Would he let his 12-year-old cycle along the B4009 alone?

40 or 30 years ago there were many fewer cars. Times are changing, we cannot all continue to each have a car. Improving cycling around our lovely village will enhance the environment and give room to those who need to walk or have no option but to drive.

Barbara Karayi
Frequent cyclist

Better provision for cyclists needed

Dear Editor—I would like to answer some of the points raised by Ivor Coleman in the June edition of the *GGN*.

He asserts that improving access for cyclists is relevant in busy urban areas but not here. I would argue Goring is increasingly taking on urban characteristics with high traffic volumes much of the time.

I agree that there are many quiet roads and bridleways that are great for cycling but you frequently have to brave dangerous and busy roads with fast moving traffic to get to them.

The route to Wallingford is only viable in dry spells and only then for someone confident cycling along rough tracks. In wet conditions it is pretty much impassable to all but dedicated off-road riders who don't mind getting covered in mud. The short section of B4009 joining South Stoke and Little Stoke is usually OK but the danger of being close passed or worse by a fast-moving vehicle is ever present and is illustrated by a near fatal collision between a cyclist friend of mine and a van locally on the A417 in 2021.

Changing footpaths to bridleways can lead to conflict between cyclists and walkers but it is up to the cyclist to slow down and take extra care when passing walkers. This is no different to what motorists should (but often fail) to do when passing cyclists. However the level of danger posed to walkers and cyclists by motor vehicles is disproportionate to that posed to walkers by cyclists. I have used many shared use paths both as a cyclist and a pedestrian and rarely encountered much contention for space.

Philip Noel

Haphazard cycling routes

Dear Editor—as a regular cyclist I was surprised to read Ivor Coleman's letter in June's *GGN* suggesting that cycling provision in our area is 'excellent' and saying there is no case for improved cycle paths. In particular, I completely disagree that the stretch of the B4009 required to cycle into Wallingford is safe for cycling and I know many other local cyclists share this view. His point that walking is highly beneficial for people of all ages is well made. The same is true for cycling, but many are dissuaded because of the lack of safe cycle routes.

I completely agree we have a lovely network of local footpaths and bridleways, but these have been established over centuries with the result we have a modest, haphazard collection of rights of way for cyclists, which dissuades many from considering cycling as a viable method of local transport or an attractive and healthy leisure activity.

Andrew McCausland

Grass verge cutting

Dear Editor—I have written to Oxfordshire County Council (Goring Parish Council please take note) to cast doubt on their Highway Verge and Vegetation Management policy RVP 1 to 10.

This policy, which considerably reduces the number of times roadside verges are cut, is seriously flawed as it fails to take into account the vast number of birds and animals that are killed on the roads as a result of drastically reduced visibility! The problem is further exacerbated by additional casualties who perish whilst attempting to devour the resulting carrion. Living creatures ought to take priority over vegetation. Looking at the problem cynically of course, substantial cost savings will be made by the non-employment of grass-cutting operatives. A major re-think is required on this policy.

Rodney Hill

Honey bees on the croquet lawn and the river bridge

On 29 June a member of the croquet club was tidying the lawn area in preparation for the recent visit from the Britain in Bloom judges, when she found a honey bee swarm on the fence between the croquet lawn and the children's playground. Fortunately, she was familiar with honey bees and was able to find a local beekeeper through the British Beekeepers Association website. She says it was lovely to watch the bees and their waggle dances while she waited for the beekeeper to come to collect them.



Honey bee swarm on the croquet lawn fence

If the bees are in a building cavity, he tries to attract the swarm into a 'bait box' containing old honeycomb. If the queen bee is tempted in then the rest of the swarm will follow. This works maybe 10% of the time.

No honey is taken from the swarm in the first year because they must build up a stock to enable them to get through the winter. Honey is only taken from hives when they have a surplus and not after July, so the bees can replace their stock before winter.

Keith is a beekeeper club member and can always find a home for a swarm. If you find one give him a call on [07771 538667](tel:07771538667) and he will come and collect it if he can. If you'd like to learn more about bees, the local beekeeper's group is the South Chiltern Beekeepers Association: www.scbka.org

Bees are pollinators of course and a valuable part of our local wildlife, so while a swarm may be intimidating for some people it is also something to celebrate.

Gill Haigh

Then on Monday 7 July there was another swarm that landed on the pavement on the river bridge. On both occasions the beekeeper who came to collect the swarm was Keith Baty. Keith is a beekeeper from Woodcote with apiaries in several local villages, including Goring. He explained that swarming is a natural part of the honey bee reproductive cycle and that while swarming the bees are usually quite docile. Swarming normally happens in May-July and the bees leave their bee-keeper hive or wild nest, sometimes in an old tree trunk, usually between 11am-3pm. There may be 5-20 thousand bees in a swarm and they usually hang in a tree near to their old home, while scout bees look for a suitable new one.

Keith has collected many swarms from the Gap in recent years. He has to brush or shake the swarm into the box, making sure that the queen is with them. Once he has captured the swarm he takes the bees to an apiary, where they live in what he calls a 'nuc' box for a couple of months so they can build up numbers, before being transferred to a hive.



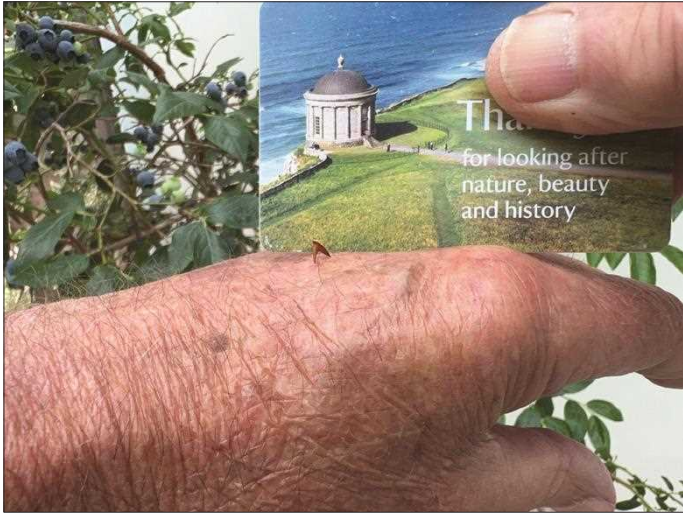
Keith capturing honey bees on the river bridge Photo: Ron Bridle

Useful summer information about wasp and bee stings and ticks

If you get stung by a bee or wasp, be very careful in the way that you remove the sting. When bees sting, they tend to leave part of their abdomen with the sting and the bee will eventually die. It is important not to squeeze the bee sting that has been left behind as this may inject more venom. The best way is to scrape the sting away with a bank card or similar (see photograph).

Wasps on the other hand, can sting multiple times as their sting does not have a barb on it, unlike the bee.

If you come across a swarm of bees, they are unlikely to be aggressive, as they gorge themselves on honey before leaving the hive. Wasps on the other hand, are very territorial and if you go near their nest, they will become very aggressive and the chances are that they will sting you.



Ticks are found in vegetation and can easily attach themselves to any exposed parts of your body or clothing. Once they attach, they will gorge themselves on blood and will start to expand. They look like very small spiders and are sometimes very difficult to remove. The best way to remove them is by special tweezers that can be purchased from any major chemist. Use the tweezers to twist and lift the tick making sure that you do not leave any part of the tick embedded in your skin.

Ticks carry diseases, especially Lyme disease which can be dangerous. If you get a bullseye looking rash, then get treatment immediately as this may indicate Lyme disease.

The best way to protect yourself from ticks is to make sure that you do not have exposed skin showing on your legs and use insect repellent. Also wear light coloured clothing, so that ticks can easily be spotted if clinging to your clothes.

Chris Rickards

Next Goring Repair and Exchange Café: Saturday 2 August

All residents are welcome to bring in up to two items for repair to Goring Village Hall 10am-12.30pm on 2 August.

It's a free service by skilled local volunteers and about 16 specialist repairers are usually on duty in the main hall at each event. They are set up with their own work station to try to fix anything you bring in. Bikes, buggies, lamps, fans, toasters, toys, computers, phones, textiles, vacuum cleaners, food mixers, other small electrical and non-electrical products, small leather and wooden items and small pieces of furniture are all the types of products we are used to tackling. The Goring Repair Cafe has a success rate of up to 70% of getting your products fully working again, or at least partially working depending if it needs a spare part.

A Book Exchange Event will also be running in the Garden Room at the same time where you can swap books of all types. You can find details of how this works on the website: www.goringrepaircafe.info In addition to the Repairers and Exchange volunteers there are up to ten other support staff, including the team providing refreshments for you in *Café Bellême*. As these are both free events, we welcome any voluntary donations to cover the cost of the hall hire and other expenses. The Goring Repair Cafe and Exchange event is an environmental project to help reduce waste and carbon emissions, run by the local charity Goring Gap Environmental Organisation (GCEO).



L'Orage - her place in history



L'Orage moored at Windsor en route

beam (width) of 8ft 6ins and a draft of 3ft. She was not built to be ocean-going. Intended for rivers and estuaries, nonetheless she was destined to cross the Channel within two years of being launched, as part of the fleet of Little Ships sent to Dunkirk.

The Dunkirk evacuation

During WWII Allied troops were stranded on the beaches and harbour of Dunkirk, France. The plan to evacuate them, called Operation Dynamo, saved approximately 330,000 British, French and Belgian troops. Between 26 May and 4 June, 1940, a flotilla of naval and civilian vessels, including the Little Ships of Dunkirk, ferried the troops off the beaches and finally to the UK. *L'Orage* (then named *Surrey*) was one of the Little Ships that went to Dunkirk and helped to save the troops. She was among the boats that were commandeered and worked day and night for over a week, picking the soldiers up from the beaches and delivering them to the larger boats which had to be moored further out. On her final return to Ramsgate, she brought back 34 soldiers! Men would probably have been hanging off her sides, there were so many. One was probably French, because a French rifle was found in the boat afterwards.

Raymond Baxter and the Association of Dunkirk Little Ships

In 1963 *L'Orage* was bought by Tomorrow's World presenter (and former fighter pilot) Raymond Baxter, who in 1965 organised a flotilla of 43 Dunkirk Little Ships to sail to Dunkirk to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the epic evacuation. He subsequently became a founder member of the Association of Dunkirk Little Ships (ADLS), which commemorates the evacuation every five years by repeating the historic voyage to Dunkirk.

John and Sally Calvert join ADLS

In 2009 John and Sally bought *L'Orage* and they continued making the commemorative voyages. *L'Orage* has joined every return to Dunkirk since the founding of the ADLS,



Crossing the English Channel shipping lanes

The Gap has the privilege of being home to a ship which is of national historic importance, due to its significant contribution during WWII. Called *L'Orage*, she is moored in what is arguably the prettiest boathouse on the Thames, below Cariad Court, above Goring Lock. Since 2009 she has been owned and cared for by Sally and John Calvert, who have immaculately maintained *L'Orage* and participated in many commemorative voyages.

Originally named *Surrey*, *L'Orage* was built as a gentleman's motor yacht by Boats & Cars of Kingston in 1938. She is made out of mahogany and oak, with a Beta marine diesel engine and is just 29ft 6ins long with a

L'Orage - Goring's resi



Moored in Bassin du Commerce, Dunkirk

L'Orage's 85th anniversary

L'Orage last crossed to Dunkirk in 2015 for the 2020 commemoration. With the 2020 she had been at sea and there was a commemorative voyage. After months of preparation, *L'Orage* returned to Goring for the 85th anniversary return.

She was going to be one of the 60 Little Ships, by the Royal Navy, to cross from Ramsgate to the centre of Dunkirk.

Goring to Ramsgate

Travel on the Thames is at the pace of a snail towards London via 24 locks. It took 24 hours to Teddington, where we joined a small flotilla to Ramsgate (approximately 13 hours) through London before the commemorative voyage.

Once clear of London we headed for the Estuary meets the North Sea and the weather at the time it was fine – not too rough. We arrived at Ramsgate.



Passing HMS Belfast

including this year. Taking a small vessel across the Channel is not something to undertake lightly; see John and Sally's account on the right.

Editor

Ident maritime treasure



Return to Dunkirk

2015, because COVID-19 scuppered the 2025 event coming up, it was ten years since a lot to do in order to be ready to go again. She was finally ready to leave her berth in Dunkirk. 6 Little Ships to form up a fleet, headed Ramsgate to the Bassin du Commerce in the

of a bygone age as it winds its way down took us three days to get to the tidal lock at (all group of six boats to make the long haul (ours). We picked up the tide at 4am to push commercial river traffic was up and running. for the North Foreland, where the Thames the water is known to be unpredictable. This we then had the final run along the coast to



Ramsgate Town and Royal Temple Yacht Club really made us welcome and the whole town put on events over the next few days with military bands, choirs and rock bands. School children had made up horseshoe 'Good Luck' plaques for each boat.

The Association of Dunkirk Little Ships' (ADLS) Honorary Admiral, Prince Michael of Kent, visited the boats, before also making the journey across the Channel to Dunkirk.

The crossing and welcome

On Wednesday 21 May the call came that the weather and sea state looked OK for a 6am start to form up into a fleet and start the crossing. Thousands of people had arrived to cheer us off which made you feel quite emotional, thinking what it would have been like back in 1940.

The ten-hour crossing was a bit bumpy but manageable, and the only hiccup was when the Navy called over the radio 'cut engines' and looking ahead there were three illegal immigrant boats heading for the UK. After a diversion we carried on. The sea got quite rough as we changed course along the French coast and the run up to Dunkirk.

Once again, the French made us very welcome and cheered us in with bands playing. There were various events, the main one for us was to attend the Town Hall and collect our 85th anniversary plaque. *L'Orage* is one of only two boats that has made the return every five years, so it is important for us to keep the record going.



Crossing to Dunkirk

Delayed return

The next day the wind started to blow day and night and did not stop for seven days, which delayed our proposed departure of Bank Holiday Monday. Eventually on the following Saturday 1 June, looking at the forecast, it looked possible to start the journey back to Ramsgate. A last-minute decision was made at 5.15am that morning and we all made our way through two road bridges into the large main lock and then out to sea. It was a manageable crossing but, again, travelling along the coastline into Ramsgate got very choppy.

On the entry into Ramsgate, we couldn't believe the sight of literally thousands of people that had arrived at short notice to welcome us in. Bands were playing, flags were waving, all of the media were there and a team of helpers to take our ropes.

After a good drink and something to eat, we got an early night ready to leave Ramsgate Harbour at 6am the next day for the 13-hour trip around the North Foreland and up The Estuary through London and onto Teddington.

After that, it was 24 locks to Goring, a boat covered in salt and time to reflect on what we had achieved.

Thanks

We cannot express our gratitude enough to the public that support the Dunkirk Little Ships, not only at Ramsgate but the people we met en route. There are many Boat Clubs from the South of England that also travel across the Channel to support us all.

We are very proud to have been the owners of *L'Orage* for the last 16 years and to have had the privilege to be involved in such an important and fantastic event, which is a great reminder of the Miracle of Operation Dynamo, which saved the lives of some 330,000 men from the beaches of Dunkirk.

John and Sally Calvert

Bloomers scrub up Goring

The judges from Britain in Bloom only come once and it is up to the community they are judging to show their best effort on the day. The judges are looking at much more than whether there are weeds and litter around, but untidiness on the big day suggest all-year-round neglect and doesn't impress. Hence the huge effort the Goring Bloomers put into weeding and cleaning the public spaces before the Monday of judgement day. (JDay).

This year Bloom had a marathon to do – plenty of growth followed by dropped leaves; there were weeds and a year of debris everywhere and all the displays needed water. June started on a high – a rare humming bird hawk moth spotted on the Bloomer's 'wild' BT site – success! Sadly, the Blooming Chair's rain dance failed again and June saw watering consume many Bloom hours, cheered by banter about appropriate watering attire on Bloom's WhatsApp group. This group is a 2025 innovation which has proved to be invaluable for both communication and general good will and morale. Weed clearing accompanied watering and planting, but with just over a week to go the debris around the centre seemed to be getting worse. County Cllr Maggie helped with Sunday morning weeding on 29 June on the High Street, then on 2 July the joyful cry came – 'Biffa have been here since 5.45am.' Biffa had been encouraged to squeeze in the clearing of Goring's gutters, despite Henley week. A great help but there was still plenty to do – weeding and sweeping the streets and car parks until they were pristine and carrying the waste away



Krys and Rosie with the postbox topper



Barry in sweeping mode

– six black bags outside the Community Centre, five builder's bags in the Chair's garden (Chair? – she didn't sit down for a week), Barry's trips to Oakley Wood... there was so much waste no one could keep count.

WhatsApp saw discussion of chewing gum removal, photos of newly cleaned flower beds and compliments about effort: 'those two are like the Duracell bunnies – they never stop. Thank goodness they moved to Goring.' Colin and Ron are reported to be having a fun day of water play cleaning the village signs, Ron has been painting for hours to cover graffiti, Gill Hunter is keen to try her new Japanese hoe and is reported to be trawling the village gutters for gold.

The Friday before Jday comes and horror: some of the hanging baskets have a problem, the heat is melting the workers and the lock is in need of serious weeding. Lock keeper Andy is trying to keep the hydraulics going and it is down to the Bloomers to wield their trowels and spark up their flame throwers. The judges will visit the bridge and look down at the lock as always. After a day in the gutters, Gill Hunter swigs a whole pot of tea and gets down to the lock in the evening to make a start. Saturday comes; the leaves are back outside Goring Village Hall and Linda is making back-up

plans, despite her bandaged hand. The team are tackling the lock and someone wants to know what has happened to the yard broom (two have had to be binned). Sunday arrives and watering and weeding and sweeping continues. The Airey family tackle the side of the chemists and Rosie and Krys put up the magnificent post box topper that celebrates the efforts of Bloom. It says Join us and Blossom but by Sunday evening the team are beginning to droop – the Chair orders everyone home to rest but Gill Hunter is spotted still weeding the railway bridge.

Then it is JDay and the judges arrive to inspect the newly manicured pavements and carparks ... they seem very happy, but who knows? ... the tour reaches its finale and the judges walk towards the river bridge to look down on the lock that has cost so much last-minute effort – only to find a swarm of bees having a rest on the bridge pavement above the lock, blocking access to the viewing point. Thanks, bees. We'll have to hope the judges imagined the lovely tidy lock.

Then into the Garden Room at GVH for lunch – the volunteers all scrubbed up and clean, like the village. It would take Sherlock Holmes to spot the weariness round the eyes...

The Britain in Bloom award ceremony is in September. Please keep your fingers crossed for Goring on Thames in Bloom – they deserve double gold for effort.

Editor (who just watched)

Lyndhurst Residential Home celebrates Alice's 100th birthday

The residents and staff at Lyndhurst had a very special birthday to celebrate recently when Alice Alexander reached 100 years old. She celebrated with cake, music and games as well as a letter from King Charles.

Alice was born in Germany in 1925 but in 1938, aged 13, she and her younger sister fled to England as refugees, just before war broke out. Sadly, Alice lost the majority her family, including her mother and father, as a result of the war in Germany. Alice thankfully got sponsored and moved to the United Kingdom, where she lived with her aunt, uncle and sister.

When Alice left school, she joined the British Army and afterwards the women's Royal Air Force as a PA. Alice has many stories to tell about this time, when she served in Aden and Palestine in particular. Alice was in Paris on the day of 'D-day'. After the war, Alice went on to help run a caravan company and one of the customers was in the early *Doctor Who*.

In 1956, Alice married Basil. They had one child, Carol, who has four sons.

Alice spent most of her working life as a PA before becoming a manager at a metal exporting company, where she was in charge of interpreting and translating for the company, due to her German mother tongue. She was the first woman to be allowed into the manager's dining room! Alice also went on a lecture tour in Germany, describing to young people what it was like to live in Germany just before the war.



Alice with her younger sister

Alice's husband Basil sadly

passed away in 2003 but up until the end of the pandemic, Alice continued to live at home on her own. Aged 94, Alice attended a wedding in which she outdanced her daughter, beaming with energy and good spirit.

Unfortunately, in 2023 Alice had a bad fall at home and she ended up in hospital. Alice's family were told that because of the risk of falls, it would be in her best interest to be moved to an appropriate care facility. Alice has moderately severe dementia now, however despite this is in good spirits and is a much-valued member of the home, by both the staff and her fellow residents.

Happy Birthday Alice, we all hope you had the best day.



Alice on her birthday

The staff at Lyndhurst

Former Goring Primary School teachers' reunion, May 2025

Four former Goring Primary School teachers had a reunion in May. We are Terry (at the main school 1968 – 1974) and Sue Hookway (nee Buxton), Val Mansfield (nee Root), and Lesley Greene (nee Cuffe-Adams), plus her husband Peter. Three of us taught at the Old School (now the Community Centre): Sue 1969 – 1973, Val 1970 – 1972 and Lesley 1972 – 1974.

When we were teaching there, Goring Primary School (GPS) was a two-form entry school, (approximately 420 children, 14 staff plus the Head teacher) with 12 classrooms on the main site (including the small hall and two terrapin classrooms where the swimming pool later sat), plus two classrooms for Year 3 down in the Old School. The building of a separate Key Stage 1 (infant) school where Yew Tree Court is now was even considered, but deemed too close to the railway.

In the Old School we removed all the internal doors so that the large front room became a Language/Literacy/Library area, the larger of the two back rooms was the Creative Arts area and the room with the hatch through to the kitchen was the Science area. Our school lunches were delivered from South Stoke which worked well, other than on two occasions, one when they were dropped in the playground (now the car park) and the other when a drain opened up, also in the playground. We have very fond memories of our time there. For the children, it gave them the experience of a village school, while being part of a larger one. They used to go up to the main school once a week for PE and assemblies, which otherwise took place at the Old School. How times have changed!

Sue Hookway, Lesley Greene, Val Mansfield



Teachers Val, Lesley and Sue outside their old classroom

BBOWT 2025 photography competition

The Berkshire, Buckinghamshire & Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust (BBOWT) is excited to announce the launch of its annual nature Photography Competition for 2025. This year's contest invites nature enthusiasts of all ages to capture the beauty of local nature across the three counties, from urban sightings to wilderness adventures. Entries are now open and will be accepted until Sunday 31 August 2025.

This year's top prizes include bird-feeding goodies from our friends at Vine House Farmand, a smart bird feeder camera with AI bird species recognition, and a photography workshop with Steve Gozdz of GG Wildlife Experiences. All winners will also have the chance to see their photos featured in the Trust's 2026 wildlife calendar and there are bundles of nature books for younger entrants to win for their schools. The popular competition attracts hundreds of entries from across Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire and is a great way for people to showcase their talents and take some time to observe nature's everyday wonders.



Participants can submit their photographs in the following categories:

- Children and Teens: all images of nature
- Nature on Your Doorstep: garden/urban/local wildlife
- BBOWT Reserves: landscapes & people: views, visitors and volunteers
- Mammals and Other Animals: from hares and hedgehogs to lizards and frogs
- Birds: including portraits, action shots and birds in flight
- Butterflies and Other Insects: beautiful butterflies and insect life
- Flowers and Fungi: colourful blooms and fantastic fungi
- Mobile Phone Photography: landscape views and wildlife photos

Most entries should feature photographs taken at BBOWT nature reserves. However, entries in the Children and Teens and Nature on Your Doorstep categories may be taken anywhere within Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, or Oxfordshire.

To enter the competition, visit www.bbowt.org.uk/photography-competition-2025 for full details on how to submit your photographs.

Justine Farrant

Media and Press Officer: 07845 014524 media@bbowt.org.uk

Wallingford Museum news

Wallingford Museum's special exhibition to mark VJ Day (Victory in Japan)

VJ Day on 15 August will be the 80th anniversary of the end of the Second World War, with the final surrender of the Japanese. Wallingford Museum will be marking this occasion with special new displays from 22 July until the end of August.

Artist Will Wilder from Crowmarsh was among thousands of prisoners captured at Singapore in 1942 and forced to work on building the Thai-Burma railway until VJ day 1945. Unlike so many of his friends, he somehow managed to survive and also brought home precious drawings he had made showing the conditions in which they had lived. He also kept a diary.

The exhibition tells his amazing story, illustrated by numerous original drawings that he had concealed from the guards by rolling them up in the hollow bamboo poles used in the structure of the prison camp huts! It is a remarkable story, not to be missed.

Exhibits also include the story of another local man, whose war was very different, but also ended in the Far East, assisting the return of the re-patriated soldiers.

Agatha Christie's Mystery Weekend in Wallingford and Cholsey: 12 September-13 September

Agatha Christie made Winterbrook House her home from 1934 till her death in 1976. You can find out lots more from exhibitions in Wallingford Museum and keep this year's celebratory weekend free, 12-13 September.

There will be special trains on the Cholsey and Wallingford Railway, talks and drama at the Corn Exchange, special events at Wallingford Museum, Wallingford Library, the Wallingford Bookshop and many other venues in the town. Also 'Agatha Christie' guided walks. Full details to follow next time and watch the different venue websites!

Walks

Something for everyone in the guided historical walks around Wallingford. These run every Saturday – until late September – departing 11am from under the Town Hall. Cost From 5 July Now £5pp (please bring cash) No need to book. About 1.5 hrs.

Also Sunday 31 August – BunkFest special – a gentle guided walk through our historic town. Meet at the Museum for 11am start. A free walk but museum donations welcome.

Sue Wright

www.wallingfordmuseum.org.uk

News from Goring CofE Primary School

Healthy Snack Day

On a hot, sunny day in June, the children at Goring Primary School really enjoyed sampling a wide range of healthy vegetables and fruit at the 'healthy snack bar'. The friendly watermelon shark made a striking centre piece! At Goring Primary School, we have a healthy school committee with representatives from each class. The committee meet several times a year and think of ways to encourage healthy living. The healthy snack bar of fruit and vegetables was our most recent initiative.

Healthy School Committee

Trip to Goring Library and St Thomas' Church

We love school trips!

Earlier in the year we'd visited the Winchester Science Centre and Planetarium. In June we had a local trip instead – to Goring Library and St Thomas' Church. We set off after lunch break. First we walked to the library where Kate, the library manager, greeted us and told us about the summer reading challenge with a theme of nature this year. After hearing about the reading challenge, we were allowed to explore the children's section of the library and spend time reading books. We had brought our library tickets and were each able to take a book out to finish reading at home.

Next, we walked to St Thomas' Church where Ben was waiting for us. Ben asked us to imagine how people 1,000 years ago would have felt when they entered the church. The people in those days would have lived in small wooden houses and would have been in awe of the huge stone church building. We learned lots about the church building by completing a quiz which was really fun. We also all had the opportunity to play a few notes on the organ. It was very loud!

Finally, we walked back to school just in time to say our end-of-day prayer before the end of the school day.

Ibis Class



Healthy snack bar

Photo: Mrs Parkinson

News from the 2nd Goring & Streatley Beavers

Beavers' nature hike badge test

On a warm Tuesday evening in June the 2nd Goring & Streatley Beavers took part in a nature hike along the top of Streatley Hill. They hiked down the rear of the hill to Rectory Road, along to Townsend Road and across Streatley Recreation Ground back to the Morrell Room, where parents were waiting. The nature hike was the last test that the Beavers needed to complete for their 'Nature Beaver' badge.

All the Beavers successfully completed the hike and learned a lot about the nature items encountered on the way. They identified features seen from the top of Streatley Hill, as well as pointing out where they lived. Well done, the Beavers. Skip was very pleased to announce that they had all passed and their badges will be awarded at the next meeting.

Beavers gain their 'Swimming Up' badge

Lodge Leaders Harry, Jack and Oliver, who have all been in the Beavers for three years, have now passed the tests and badges to gain the highest award in the Beavers, the 'Swimming Up' badge. In order to gain this award, the Beavers have to learn new skills and knowledge in order to obtain five badges: 'Safe Beaver' badge, 'Helpful Beaver' badge, 'Active Beaver' badge, 'Handcraft Beaver' badge and finally their 'Nature Beaver' badge. There are ten tests in each badge – so a lot to learn and to become proficient in. Well done, Harry, Jack and Oliver. Their 'Swimming Up' ceremony will take place in September, when they will swim up into the Wolf Cubs. We wish them happy hunting in the Wolf Cubs.

Investiture of Alethea into the Beavers

Girl Beaver Alethea was invested during the last meeting in June. Alethea had been looking forward to her investiture.

If you are a girl six years of age or over, why not come along and join the Girl Beavers in our Beaver Colony? Either telephone Skip [07789 938291](tel:07789938291) or apply at <http://2ndgoringandstreatley.org.uk/main.php>

David Cooksley (Skip)

Group Scout Master, The 2nd Goring & Streatley Scout Group



Swimming Up Awards June 2025

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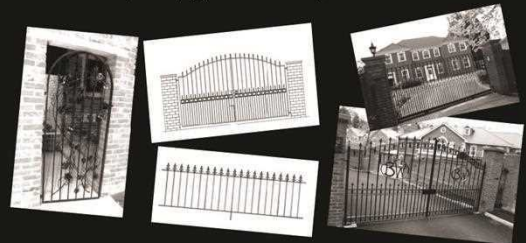
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A Visit to Bentley Priory Museum – Headquarters for the Battle of Britain

To mark the 85th anniversary of the Battle of Britain – that pivotal clash in the skies over southern England between 10 July and 31 October 1940 – the Goring Gap Local History Society embarked on a very special excursion. On 24 June, under the expert organisation of Geraldine Grayson and Janet Hurst, members boarded a coach bound for one of Britain’s most quietly remarkable heritage sites: Bentley Priory Museum, tucked away in the leafy heights of Stanmore, north-west London.

This isn’t just another historic country house. Set in landscaped parkland and housed within a stately Grade II* listed mansion, Bentley Priory has worn many hats across the centuries – priory, palace, hotel, school – but it is best known as the beating heart of Britain’s aerial defence during our gravest hour.

The nerve centre of the Battle of Britain

It was from within the serene, colonnaded rooms of Bentley Priory that Air Chief Marshal Sir Hugh Dowding directed the defence of Britain in 1940, when Nazi invasion seemed imminent. As Headquarters of RAF Fighter Command, Bentley Priory was the strategic command post that transformed radar signals, observer reports and squadron movements into decisive action. Without this coordination – and without Dowding’s visionary leadership – victory in the Battle of Britain would indeed have been in doubt.

The Museum’s exhibits tell the story through a powerful lens: ‘The One’ (Dowding himself), ‘The Few’ (the courageous pilots) and ‘The Many’ (the thousands of unsung men and women on the ground who enabled the RAF to fight another day). This concept powerfully underlines the collective nature of the struggle – a vast national effort that depended on resilience, innovation and quiet heroism.

Nearly 3,000 aircrew from 15 nations flew in the Battle of Britain. Of these, 544 paid the ultimate price. They lived on constant alert, rising before dawn, ever-ready to scramble at a moment’s notice. Dangers abounded: mechanical failure, enemy fire, collisions -- and the ever-present possibility of not returning. As Churchill famously said in August 1940:

‘Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few.’

A house with a royal and local connection

Bentley Priory’s wartime role may take centre stage, but the building itself has a distinguished past — with a connection of particular interest to us.

This mansion was transformed between 1789 and 1798 by the celebrated Georgian architect Sir John Soane who, as many in Goring know, was born in our village. Soane’s elegant neoclassical style is still evident, from the entrance hall with its distinctive arched windows to the soaring Rotunda, flooded with natural light. These spaces, later enhanced with features celebrating the RAF, now serve as both architectural gems and memorials to courage.

The Priory’s most regal resident was Queen Adelaide, consort of King William IV, who lived here in her final years. Her portrait still graces the Rotunda, and the graceful Adelaide Room continues to reflect her refined taste and gentle presence. In 1926, the house entered its most famous chapter when the Ministry of Defence took it over to serve the RAF.

What we saw

Our visit brought the past vividly to life. Highlights included:

- Battle of Britain galleries: These immersive displays blend sound, film, objects and interactive technology. A life-size Spitfire cockpit, wartime radar room and a poignant video projected in Dowding’s office made a deep impression.
- Personal stories: From stained glass squadron badges and hand-written letters to well-worn uniforms and medals, the Museum honours not just the strategy, but the humanity behind the history.
- Historic interiors: Sir John Soane’s grand architectural vision still shines, especially in the staircase, entrance hall and Rotunda — a reminder that art and war sometimes share the same walls.

An overlooked gem of national importance

Bentley Priory Museum is a hidden treasure with a national voice. It tells a crucial chapter in Britain’s wartime story, through tales of sacrifice, leadership and quiet courage, all housed within a building rich in its own architectural and royal legacy.

Our members left with a greater appreciation for those who once fought for freedom – and for the remarkable home that became their command post.

The Goring Gap Local History Society has more visits and talks lined up for later in the year. If you’d like to know more or join us, please get in touch with our Secretary, Janet Hurst, at goringgaphistory@gmail.com

Alan Winchcomb
Chairman, Goring Gap Local History Society



Members of GGLHS standing near a replica Spitfire

Photo: Adrian Turner



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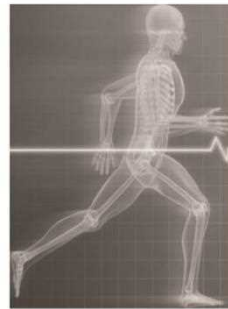
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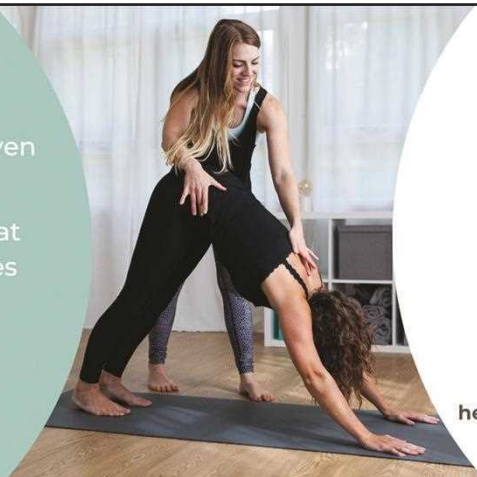
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Oxfordshire County Council's article for Volunteers Week

Jacqui gives something back to her community

Goring resident Jacqui Gray has spent over ten years now volunteering at her local library through various roles. In National Volunteers week, she is sharing her story to inspire others to take up voluntary work.

Jacqui, 57, began her journey with a simple love for books. She initially started as a library volunteer, shelving books and assisting visitors. Over time, her passion and commitment led to her becoming more and more involved.

'I just love books – I absolutely adore reading, and I couldn't think of anything better than to be in an environment where I was surrounded by them and talking to people about them!

'So, I became a volunteer, helping with shelving books and answering questions.

'After a while, I then got onto the committee of the Friends of Goring Library, and when our then chair became the library manager I stepped up to become the chair, which is also a voluntary role.'

Throughout the years Jacqui has discovered volunteering extends to organising community events and providing support to residents.

'Ten years ago, I would have thought volunteering in a library is all about books. But, once I started to get involved, I realised it was so much more than that.

'We've always got events on, and people coming in for help and advice. Volunteering is also about engaging with people in the community who might not have realised what they can get from a library. It's a community hub really. There's always the next big thing to look towards too. We've recently had a library refurbishment, and now we're planning a library garden.'

The social element of volunteering is also a great reward for Jacqui as much as helping her local community.

'I've got to meet many local people that I might not have otherwise come across. When I go into the village, there's a lot of people of all different age groups that I can talk to and that I know, and it really has helped me feel part of the community myself.'

Whatever the kind of voluntary work it is, Jacqui is now keen to encourage others to get involved too.

'You're helping the community, you're helping other people, and it gives you something as well. If you are just at a bit of a loose end or you're looking to broaden your horizons, then going to volunteer is a fantastic thing to do.

'When I started off with the library, I was only doing a couple of hours every other week, so you can commit as little or as much time as you can – most people are just really pleased you're able to help.'

Councillor Neil Fawcett, Deputy Leader of Oxfordshire County Council, said: 'Jacqui's story is a powerful example of how volunteering can enrich both the volunteer and the community. Her dedication and enthusiasm have made Goring Library a vibrant and welcoming place.

'If you're inspired by her story, do consider volunteering. Whether you have a few hours to spare or can commit more time, your contribution can make a difference. Join the community of volunteers and experience the rewards of giving back.'

Jacqui is Chair of the Friends of Goring Library, which is a registered charity and provides outreach in the community, raises funds to pay for staffing on alternate Saturdays and Thursdays, and also provides extra funds for books and events at the library.

The charity has also supported the library service during its refurbishment last year and is supporting the library garden development.



Wallingford & District Stroke Club

The Wallingford & District Stroke Club welcomes new members. Affiliated to the Stroke Association we are a friendly and happy club with the purpose of helping stroke sufferers to resume an as near to normal life as possible. Our focus is on socialising and having fun! No matter what your level of disability, we will try to accommodate you. We may be able to help with transport.

We usually meet on the second Wednesday of the month from 2-4pm in the Crowmarsh Village Hall. The hall has plenty of parking, level access and accessible toilet facilities. Here we enjoy talks, entertainments, games and activities. Light refreshments are always available. In the summer we get out and about for such things as garden teas, pub lunches and river trips.

We also welcome volunteers/drivers. For more information please contact: Judy and Norman, joint chairmen, on [01235 834503](tel:01235834503) or Nigel, secretary, on [07722 957102](tel:07722957102) (phone/text).

Nigel Hessey

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Goring-on-Thames Parish Council

The principal points of the Goring Parish Council meeting on 9 June are summarised below. The draft minutes are available at www.goringparishcouncil.gov.uk

- The Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) Section 1 'Annual Governance Statement' 2024/2025 was approved
- The dates for the GPC accounts public rights of inspection were approved: Monday 23 June – 1 August 2025, being 30 working days including the first 10 working days of July
- The Village Weeding Day was approved. It will be held on Sunday 29 June based at the Gardiner Pavilion at 10am
- The Council voted to approve spraying weeds in the village on two occasions on a trial basis. There was agreement that spraying should be kept to a minimum, with stakeholders to be informed via the website and Facebook
- The Council approved joining the Rural Services Network
- The 2024-25 Neighbourhood Plan Monitoring Annual Report was noted
- Jim Emerson was approved to liaise with the Community First Responder Charity appeal to progress their request for funding
- The signing of the Tennis Club Lease was approved

Next Meetings: Bellême Room, Goring Village Hall 14 July and 8 Sep 7.30pm. See www.goringparishcouncil.gov.uk for the agenda.

Streatley Parish Council – 9/6/2025

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

Planning applications

25/01112/LBC – West Streatley House, High Street, Streatley, Reading, RG8 9HY. Conservatory remedial works. Treatment of GF damp at party wall junction. Front and side window maintenance. Rear 1st floor windows maintenance and repair. Bathroom repairs and renewed finishes. Ironmongery changes to ground floor. Change in GF step within kitchen.

Consultation: Mon 23 Jun 2025 Council do not object.

Decisions by WBC

- 25/00328/HOUSE – Cleeve Court Lodge, Streatley, Reading, RG8 9PR. New detached garage. SPC did not object. Approved 22/5/2025
- 25/00594/HOUSE – 7 Cleeve Court, Streatley Reading RG8 9PS. Proposed conservatory to infill existing first floor balcony. SPC did not object Approved 20/5/2025
- 24/01944/FULMAJ – Streatley Farmhouse, Wallingford Road, Streatley, Reading RG8 9PT.. Change of use, Internal and external alterations, Erection of replacement car port, Extension of residential curtilage, Erection of two greenhouses, replacement sheep barn, landscaping, car parking and associated works.. SPC did not object Approved 30/5/2025
- 25/00604/HOUSE – Milford Lodge, The Coombe, Streatley Reading RG8 9QL. Alterations and Single Storey Rear Extension. SPC did not object Approved 28/5/2025
- 25/00688/HOUSE – Pensylva, The Coombe, Streatley, Reading RG8 9QL. Extend existing bungalow with part one and a half storey and part one storey. (Renew approval 21/02952/HOUSE). SPC did not object Approved 30/5/2025
- 24/01945/LBC – Streatley Farmhouse, Wallingford Road, Streatley, Reading RG8 9PT. Change of use, Internal and external alterations, Erection of replacement car port, Extension of residential curtilage, Erection of two greenhouses, replacement sheep barn, landscaping, car parking and associated works.. SPC did not object. Approved 04/6/2025

Next meeting

Next Council meeting in The Morrell Room on Monday 8 September 2025 at 7.50pm. There will be no meeting in August.

Citizens Advice Oxfordshire needs volunteers

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We would like you to be available for two sessions per week, either mornings or afternoons or for a whole day. We offer a rewarding, flexible and supportive working environment. You'll also learn new skills and meet new people in the course of your volunteering.

If you would like to discuss these volunteering roles, please email: volunteer-recruitment@caox.org.uk and one of our team will contact you.

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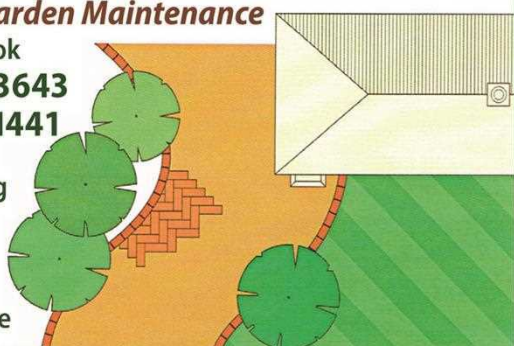
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Goring Robins celebrate another fantastic season of football and community spirit



U12 Girls - BCGFL League Cup Trophy winners

vital funds to support the club's ongoing development and future growth.

We wrapped up the season in true Robins style with our end-of-season Presentation Day at Sheepcot. It was a day of celebration, bringing together all teams to share in the season's achievements. There was a BBQ, games and fun for the kids, and of course, the much-anticipated trophy and medal presentations.

After the presentations had finished, some of the coaches even dusted off their boots and took to the pitch for a very fun – and surprisingly competitive – game, much to the delight of the spectators!

We would also like to extend our sincere



U12 Blacks - OTFL Division B Champions

thanks to our main club sponsor, Warmingham, for their continued support, along with all the other generous sponsors who have supported individual teams with away kits and training wear.

A big thank you as well to Goring Parish Council, whose support has helped us get so many children playing football, and to The Oratory School for kindly allowing us use of their excellent pitches and facilities.

This season also marked the farewell of Mark Kirk, who not only managed his team with dedication, but also served as Chairman of the club for a number of years. To celebrate his contribution, the coaches put together a team to take on Mark's U18s in a farewell match – a



U8 Girls - League Trophy winners

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U12 Reds - EBFA Division 3 Champions as invincibles

fitting send-off for a much-loved figure in the club. Thank you, Mark – and enjoy a well-earned rest!

As all grassroots clubs will know, none of this would be possible without the incredible efforts of our volunteers. A huge thank you must go to all the managers and coaches who give up their time week after week to ensure the children can enjoy their football in a fun, safe, and supportive environment. And a special thanks to our fantastic committee, who work tirelessly behind the scenes to keep the club running smoothly and successfully.



Mark Kirk's U18s v The Coaches

We now look forward to building on this momentum for what promises to be another brilliant season in 2025/26. And of course – Come on you Robins!

Matt Trimmings
Chairman, Goring Robins Football Club

Cricket Club Quiz returns – Friday 19 September

The team behind the ever-popular Goring and Streatley Quiz Challenge trophy is back with the 15th edition of their quiz – featuring a wide variety of topics and rounds to appeal to teams of all ages.

The event will take place on Friday 19 September (doors open at 7.30pm) at Goring Village Hall. Teams should have between four and six team members, with each paying £10 per member.

The 'Boundary Bar' will be open all night at the Village Hall, serving a variety of refreshments, snacks and alcohol including local real ale, lagers, cocktails and wine/fizz. Having been a roaring success at past quizzes, a variety of tasty pizza will also be available to purchase on the night.

To book your place and give your team the chance of winning the famous trophy, please contact Jonny Russell at jonnyrussell100@outlook.com or 07825 552009.

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Join us on Friday 22 August 8-10pm (doors open from 7.30pm) in Goring Village Hall for an unforgettable night of smooth summer jazz and help support the next generation of musical talent!

We are delighted to announce a stellar house band of Martin Pickett (keyboard), Pete Howard (bass) and Jon Buxton (drums) – and they will be joined by the sophisticated vocals of Anna Shackleton and the superb Theo Warren on tenor saxophone – well known to many in Goring and Streatley and currently studying jazz at the Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance.

The ever-popular Trust Bar will be open throughout the evening, offering a wide range of alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages. Whilst you are welcome to bring your own nibbles, the bar will be serving a range of Emergency Snacks... Tickets £12.50 (Adults) and £5 (Children) available here:

<https://www.trybooking.com/uk/FANR> or contact info@goringandstreatleyymt.co.uk for more information

Proceeds from this event will support the Goring and Streatley Young Musicians Trust. To learn more about the Trust's mission and activities, please visit www.goringandstreatleyymt.co.uk

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NETTLEBED ART AND CRAFT SHOW

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

82nd ANNUAL CHOLSEY VILLAGE SHOW

To be held on Saturday 16 August from 12 – 5pm at the Cholsey Recreation Ground off Station Road. As well as hundreds of exhibits in the marquee we have an afternoon of entertainment for the whole family. We are looking forward to welcoming Van Buren's Victorian Theatre of Wonders a unique fast fun and baffling show for all the family. The show promises to answer many of the questions about Victoriana, magic and illusion. In addition they will be running two inclusive circus skills workshops during the afternoon. Other entertainment will include a Fun Dog Show, Wallingford Morris Dancers, Cholsey Silver Band, Football Skills and Tennis Have a Go sessions and children's games. There will be a car boot sale and Stalls including lunches, ice-cream, tea and cakes and Real Ale and Pimms bar. Free entry and car parking.

WALLINGFORD PHOTO CLUB

Although on summer break, Wallingford Photographic Club has a few activities to look out for ahead of September. We have a photography competition which is open to all: Summer in Oxfordshire with a £100 prize up for grabs so why not give it a shot? See wallingfordphoto.club for details. Then come and see us over Bunkfest weekend: we will be holding our annual

exhibition at St Mary-Le-More Church (behind the Town Hall) on Saturday 30 August. Drop by to view or buy our best work, chat to members and have some refreshments.

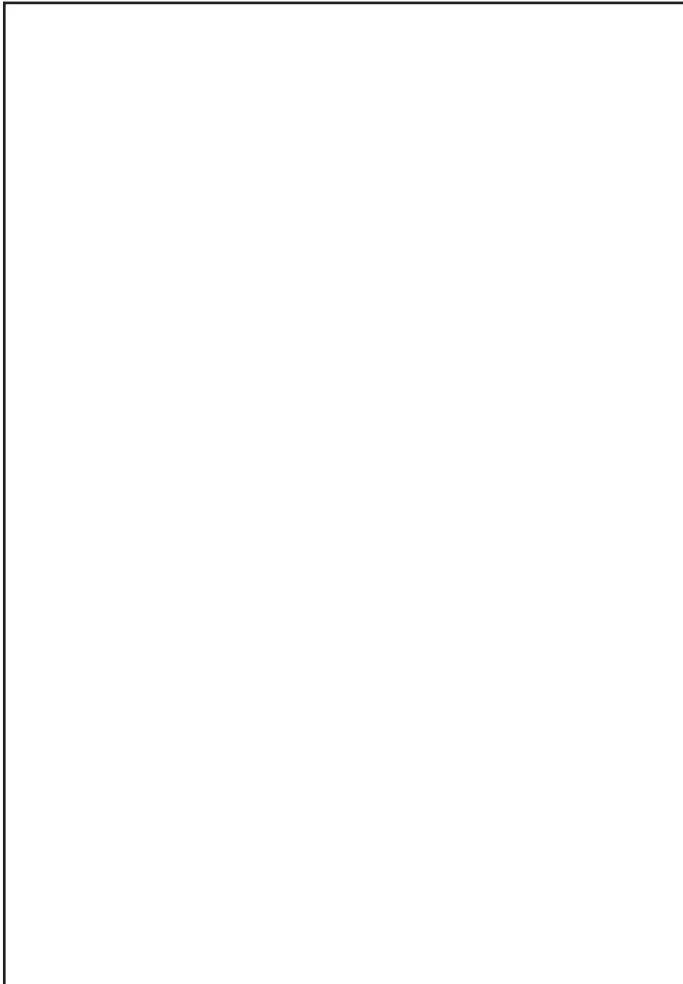
In September we will start a new season so come along and join our informal and inclusive group of enthusiasts as we start our new programme of talks, presentations, competitions and practical sessions. We discuss a wide range of topics – not just technical – including getting feedback on your photos if you're keen to show them. We meet on Thursdays from 7-10pm at Crowmarsh Pavilion, and we'll have a few sessions online where we make the most of speakers from far away. First on 18 September will be an evening to welcome new members, discuss the new programme, and share ideas and progress on our photographic projects for the season. Then on 25th is a presentation on 'Astral Landscapes' from Gareth Wilson, who will then take us outdoors for an exciting practical session (let's hope for clear skies!)

SUE RYDER STARLIGHT HIKE THAMES VALLEY

Step into a starlit evening to celebrate a loved one at Sue Ryder Starlight Hike Thames Valley on Saturday 11 October.

Get together with friends and family and take part in a 5k or 10k walk in the grounds of Mapledurham Estate for someone special while raising vital funds to help Sue Ryder continue providing expert care and support to those facing grief and loss.

Kindly sponsored by Azego and Holy Brook Accountants, the evening will begin with live entertainment and a Zumba warm-up before participants set off on a memorable night-time walk through the stunning estate. At the start of the route, walkers will have the opportunity to leave a dedication to their loved one in a special remembrance area. At the finish line, participants will receive a well-earned medal, knowing their efforts have helped ensure that no one faces death or grief alone. Every pound raised will support Sue Ryder's specialist care, helping people navigate life's most difficult moments. Sign up today at sue Ryder.org/StarlightThamesValley or contact the fundraising team at thamesvalley.fundraising@sue Ryder.org or call 0118 9550 433. Standard tickets start from £20 per adult, which includes a medal and tee shirt. Those unable to take part in the walk can still be involved – volunteers are needed to support Starlight Hike and help make the evening truly special. Get in touch with the fundraising team to find out more.




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Sunday 27 July

Withymead Nature Reserve, Cream Tea
Sunday. 10am-5pm, Cream teas served 2-5pm. No need to pre-book, just turn up and enjoy.

More info at <https://withymead.org>

Reserve open on other Sundays in July.

Also open on all Sundays until 24 August, 10am-5pm.

Wednesday 30 July

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

Thursday 31 July

Summer Reading Challenge Storytime and craft. 10.30-11am, GL.

Saturday 2 August

Goring Repair Café and Exchange

event. 10am-12.30pm, GVH. The aim is to reduce waste and unnecessary consumption by providing opportunities for anyone to bring one or two items to get them looked at and hopefully repaired. www.goringrepaircafe.info

Monday 4 August

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

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

Tuesday 5 August

Library book group. 5-6pm, GL See library staff if interested.

Wednesday 6 August

• **Lego workshop.** 10-11am, GL. Please book [01865 815155](tel:01865815155)

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

Thursday 7 August

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

Friday 8 August

Greadies Library Book Group. 10-11am GL. See library staff if interested.

Monday 11 August

Balloon Night Glow. 7-10pm. Streatley Rec. Weather permitting.

Wednesday 13 August

• **Create a mini-garden.** 10-11.30am, GL Please book [01865 815155](tel:01865815155).

• **Cleeve by Goring WI.** Summer party. Through the decades, music and quizzing

Thursday 14 August

Storytime with craft activity. 10.30-11.45am GL Drop-in.

Sunday 17 August

Cleeve and Goring WI, Tea and cakes
By the lock in the afternoon, with Goring and Streatley Concert Band.

Tuesday 19 August

Social Scrabble Club. 4.45-7pm, GL All welcome with refreshments.

Wednesday 20 August

• **Gelli Plate Printing workshop.** 10.30-12 and 1-2.30pm. GL. Please book [01865 815155](tel:01865815155)

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

Friday 22 August

Charity jazz concert. 8-10pm with doors open from 7.30pm. GVH. The exceptional house trio of Martin Pickett (keyboard), Pete Howard (bass), and Jon Buxton (drums) will be joined by the equally talented Theo Warren (tenor sax) and Anna Shackleton (vocals), among others, to bring you an evening of sublime summer jazz!

Tickets £12.50 (Adults) and £5 (Children) <https://www.trybooking.com/uk/FANR> or contact

info@goringandstreatleyymt.co.uk for more information

Monday 25 August

South Stoke Open Gardens. 1-5pm.

Last entry 3.30pm. Free Parking RG8 0JT. Disabled parking outside the church RG8 0JS. No dogs to be taken into gardens.

Tuesday 26 August

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

Wednesday 27 August

Storytime with Jonathan Clifton, *Billy and Bobby*, *The Lazy Gardeners*. Puppets and songs. 10-11am. GL. Drop in.

Thursday 28 August

Goring Gap U3a. 10.30-12noon, GVH. Speaker: Roger Browne. *The Golden Age of Radio*.

Sunday 31 August

Withymead Nature Reserve, Last Cream Tea Sunday of 2025. 10am-5pm, Cream teas served 2-5pm. No need to pre-book, just turn up and enjoy. More info at www.withymead.org Also open on all Sundays until 24 August, 10am-5pm.

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

Wallingford Corn Exchange

Check www.cornexchange.org for film listings. Films in August include:

- *Jurassic World Rebirth*
- *The Ballad of Wallis Island*
- *Mr. Burton*
- *Amadeus*
- *Modigliandi Three Days on the Wing of Madness*
- *The Salt Path*
- *A Complete Unknown*

Live Screenings

Sat, Aug 23, 7:30pm, Roger Waller's *This is Not a Drill*, live from Prague

Live on stage

29-31 August: Bunkfest

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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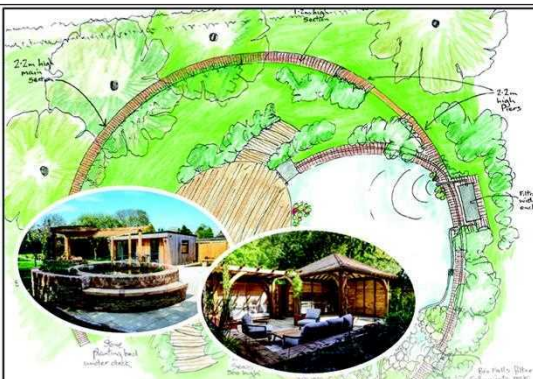
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Trumpet Vine in Goring



Sunflower in Goring



Photos: Adrian Turner

Midsummer evening at the Swan hotel



The Boat House on a midsummer's evening



Photos: Chris Rickards