

Goring Gap News

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

We wish all our readers a Happy Christmas



His Majesty's Deputy Lieutenant of Oxfordshire with children from Streatley School - see P5

Wet Nose Day?



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Website www.goringgapnews.co.uk

Editor Gill Haigh

07979 686288 goringgapnews@gmail.com

Arts Editor: Rosie Mortimer

ggnarts@gmail.com

Business Editor Jo Pereira

ggnbus@gmail.com

Diary Editor David Slarks

ggn diary@gmail.com

Sports Editor Jonny Russell

07825 552009 ggn sports@gmail.com

Advertising John Williams

ggn adverts@gmail.com

Invoices Colin Ratcliff

ggn invoicing@gmail.com

Production Pauline Garrett,

Mavis Law, Hazel Preston-Barnes

Proof Reader Janet Hurst

Postal Subscriptions Tim Cox

01491 872980 timothycox939@btinternet.com

Distribution Victoria Brandon

07876 562338 ggn distribution@gmail.com

Chairman Jeremy Spring

ggn chair@gmail.com

Company Secretary John Boorman

ggn secretary@gmail.com

Treasurer Anne Parkinson

07500 890373 ggn treasurer@gmail.com

Media contributions

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: 7 January Distribution

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

January 2026 weekend of 24/25

February 2026 weekend of 21/22

March 2026 weekend of 21/22

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

Extra copies can be purchased from Inspiration and Westholme Stores.

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GRAPEVINE Goring Gap News Association

The 38th Annual General Meeting of the GGN Association will be held in the Goring and District Community Centre on Tuesday 24 March 2026 at 4pm.

Nominations (proposed and seconded) are invited for the position of Chairman and up to eleven other elected Management Committee members. Nominees must indicate their consent to be nominated and, if elected, to be appointed directors of Goring Gap News Limited.

Nominations to be received by the Secretary ggnsecretary@gmail.co no later than 31 January 2026

Torchlight carols – Christmas Eve

The processions will start on Christmas Eve at 6pm. The Goring start will be on the High Street, between the offices of Warmingham and Davis Tate. The Streatley start will be the bottom of The Coombe. Goring and Streatley High Streets will be closed to traffic from 5.45pm, to allow people to gather. Goring High Street will reopen once the procession has left, Streatley High Street and the river bridge will remain closed to traffic until everyone has dispersed, usually around 8pm.

We ask that no one under the age of 14 carry a torch, for the safety of everyone in our community. We hope you all enjoy the evening.

Bonfire tidy up – Boxing Day

We welcome helpers to clear up the meadow and bonfire site on Boxing Day, from 10am. With willing hands, the task does not take long; any that can come and help will be much appreciated. Festive cheer and snacks will be in abundance!

Merry Christmas from the Goring & Streatley Torchlight Committee

New volunteers join the GGN team – and an urgent vacancy

GGN is delighted to welcome two new volunteers this month. Kate Ashley has joined the GGN production team and Sarah Sanders has taken on the distributor role advertised in the November edition. Our thanks to both Kate and Sarah for stepping up and enabling GGN to continue to be delivered free to every home in the Goring Gap each month.

Next, calling all Streatley Hill/Aldworth Road residents. Our thanks go to Cathy White and Rebecca Russell for delivering GGN to their neighbours in recent years. GGN now needs a new volunteer to deliver 21 copies of GGN in that area once a month. Please contact Victoria at ggn distribution@gmail.com to volunteer. In case we can't find a volunteer, the fallback position is that if you live in that area and your copy has not arrived by Monday 26 January, please collect it from Goring Library.

Christmas tree recycling

Goring residents can leave trees at the Rectory Garden or at the Cleeve Road corner of the Gardiner Recreation Ground near the barrier, until Thursday 8 January. Trees over 6ft must be cut down to size before being left. Collection will take place on Friday 9 January. For general Christmas waste and recycling information see

www.southoxon.gov.uk/south-oxfordshire-district-council/recycling-rubbish-and-waste/christmaswaste/

or <https://www.westberks.gov.uk/article/39002/Waste-less-this-Christmas>

GGN key dates 2026

Copy deadline Distribution

7 January	24/25
4 February	21/22
4 March	21/22
8 April	25/26
6 May	23/24
10 June	27/28
8 July	25/26
5 August	22/23
2 September	19/20
30 September(for Oct)	17/18
4 November	21/22
2 December	19/20



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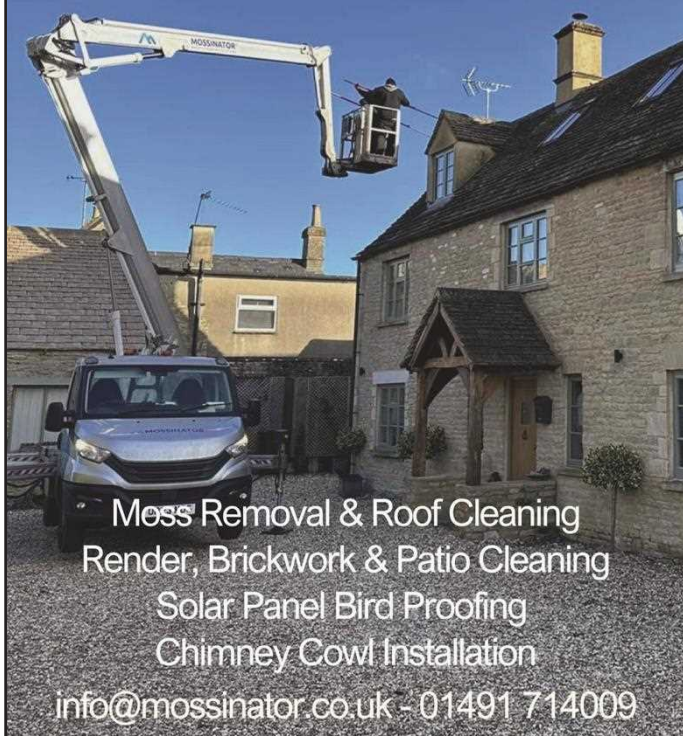
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The King's Elm

Most residents of Goring and Streatley will remember the joint celebrations on the Gardiner field the day after the Coronation. During the event the MC announced that to mark the King's Coronation a tree would be planted in the field. This would complement the oak tree which was planted on the north boundary to commemorate the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II on 2 June 1953 and also another tree to mark her Diamond Jubilee in June 2012.

On the King's 77th birthday, 14 November, the commemorative tree was planted. Those who remember the heavy rain that accompanied the record-length street party in 2012, will be unsurprised to hear that the torrential rain on 14 November did not affect the ceremony. The rain came down but the gazebo went up, the rain came down and the hole filled with water as the Parish Clerk was digging it, the rain came down but Ms Lynda Atkins, His Majesty's Deputy Lieutenant of Oxfordshire, drove through it and honoured Goring by her presence.

Then fortune smiled. At 3.45pm the rain stopped for half an hour, long enough for the ceremony to take place. The Chair of Goring Parish Council welcomed Ms Atkins, who then addressed the crowd of waterproofed onlookers, including a group of Streatley Primary School children. The Deputy Lieutenant told them that they would be the ones who would see the tree in its maturity and invited them to help her plant it. She led the way in adding the first damp spade of earth to the hole around the waiting tree and then the children took the spade in turn, to add their own contribution to the planting (see photos P43).

Ron Bridle explained to the children that the planted tree is not an oak, but a special variety of elm. Bred to resist the disease that devastated British elm trees, the hope is that it will provide a habitat for the White-letter Hairstreak butterfly, whose larvae only feed on elm. The loss of elm trees has led to a dramatic decline in the numbers of these fussy feeders (I hope the children took note). Another reason for choosing an elm near the playground area is that an oak tree would risk attracting the Oak Processionary Moth, which can cause allergic reactions.

The planting event was organised, with permission and financial support of Goring Parish Council, by the organisers of the 2023 Coronation event, Simon Carter DL (Berkshire) and Ron Bridle BEM.

Editor



Looking ahead with Bloom

Most of the plants are dormant now and there is a lot of dead material to clear up, but spring is round the corner and Goring on Thames in Bloom volunteers are hurriedly getting in the last of the daffodil bulbs, in anticipation of a colourful show in 2026. As they take a winter break from the ongoing tasks of watering and weeding, thoughts are turning to next year's activities.

Goring won Gold in the 2025 Thames & Chilterns Region Britain in Bloom Competition and came top of its category of Small Town. As a result of this, the Thames & Chilterns committee have put us forward for consideration as entrants in the 2026 Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) National Britain in Bloom Competition. We won't know for several months if the bid has been successful, but if we are, this will be a great honour for our community. It will also involve a great deal of work and planning, but some great ideas came out of the recent brainstorming session from the Bloomers. Watch this space.

We were also surprised and pleased in November to receive an Outstanding Award for Community Engagement from the RHS in this year's national Community Awards scheme. Thames & Chilterns had nominated us for this in recognition of the enthusiastic participation of the whole village in our endeavours. We are very grateful to everyone for their interest and help.

If you would like to get involved in Bloom activities, then please do get in touch. We welcome new volunteers to join our friendly team. Just call or text [07880 930659](tel:07880930659).

A Blooming Merry Christmas to all our supporters.



The Bloom Committee
www.goringapinbloom.org.uk

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Magic in the Morrell Room

Between the 19th and 22nd of November a touch of magic came to the Morrell Room with the latest production from the Goring Gap Players of *Bell, Book and Candle*. This classic Hollywood film was reproduced for us by director Janet d'Alton, who returned to Goring to bring us this delightful play, skilfully updating it to 1960s Knightsbridge, cleverly captured with the realistic set, suitably period costumes and Sixties music.

The aura of magic was maintained with the skilful use of lighting and sound, creating an otherworldly feel whenever a spell was cast or the mysterious masks sprung into life.

The plot is simple: Gillian Holroyd, played with great comic timing and pizzazz by Caro Armstrong, decides to cast a spell on her hapless single tenant Anthony, causing him to fall in love with her and reject a formal school bully and rival of hers, the poison pen writer Daphne we never actually meet.

The plot becomes more complicated as Gillian finds herself falling in love with Anthony, which is against the rules for a witch and can lead to excommunication, similar to that for mortal sins from the Roman Catholic Church, hence the title of the play!



Casting Spells



Spooky surprises



Stirring action

The small cast all played their part in creating characters we could identify with and enjoy. We went through a rollercoaster of emotions with Anthony, played by Phil Davies, as he falls hopelessly in love, confesses to feeling bewitched and who, when he learns the truth, justifiably feels hurt and betrayed. Lightness and energy were brought to the performance by Amanda Holland, whose comic timing was excellent as usual and who portrayed the

mischievous and slightly dippy Aunt Queenie with great aplomb. Luke Goodyear, as the very mischievous warlock Nicholas, lit up the stage every time he came on, whether through an open door or a closed one. Mark Havers, as the rather bemused writer Sydney, trying to make sense of the world of witches and to publish a book about witches in London, added another dimension to the plot and we felt with him as he tried to deflect Gillian's anger and save himself from a potential bad spell.

The twist at the end of the play gave a satisfying finale to this fun Rom-Com, which was thoroughly enjoyed by the audience with lots of laughter heard and a real buzz of discussion at the interval and at the end of the play.

Altogether a magical night out enjoying live theatre in our villages.

Gaye Walsh

Goring Community Jazz – 'Madly Adderley'

Julian 'Cannonball' Adderley (alto sax) and his younger brother Nat (trumpet, cornet) were key figures in the post-bop era. Julian was part of the Miles Davis Quintet for a while, notably on the album *Somethin' Else* (1958) and he and Nat together made numerous albums such as *Them Dirty Blues* (1960). On Friday 14 November the house trio were joined by Mike Wilkins (alto sax) and Stuart Henderson, who for that evening was playing Nat Adderley's preferred instrument, the 'long cornet' (halfway between a standard trumpet and the stubby brass-band cornet). The evening was a tribute to the Adderley brothers and their recordings. Both Wilkins and Henderson were on great form, the former conjuring up Julian Adderley's fat tone, expansive phrasing, and double-tempo runs, while Henderson played with a searingly hot tone and tireless invention. Highlights of the first set included *Dis 'Ere*, a gospel-type number in 3/4 time, and *Jive Samba* with Wilkins slurred, Adderley-esque phrasing and Henderson's 'wah-wah' growls. Nick Hill turned in a fine piano solo. In *Del Sasser*, a jaunty up-tempo original, Wilkins' alto-sax reached great heights, over the storming drums of Mick Goff. All the numbers began with a well-rehearsed ensemble chorus and in the second set, the fast but melodic *Jeannine* was attractively harmonised. In the 'gospelly' *Walk Tall*, a scorching solo from Henderson was followed by a classy rimshot-driven drum solo from Mick, who was clearly enjoying himself. The audience loved it. The encore was Nat Adderley's *Work Song* featuring Howard King on bass, backed by cymbals alone. It was rounded off with the whole group 'trading fours'. The audience clearly appreciated an exceptional evening of top-class jazz.

Gus McGill








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MUSIC and ARTS continued

The Great American Songbook

For those of you who don't know, the Roy Bailey Big Band (think Count Basie or Ted Heath), was founded in Goring over thirty years ago and more than a third of its members still hail from Goring. Under the energising direction of Claire Salmon, in her trademark black trilby, this is a well-rehearsed and crisply swinging ensemble performing gold-plated arrangements, and on 27 November a packed Goring Village Hall heard them play a well-chosen programme of timeless American 'standards'.

An added treat was, not one, but two featured vocalists. Petite Anna Shackleton, a newcomer to the band, has a voice that can rise from softly sensuous to powerful and penetrating, as in *Lullaby of Broadway*, though her version of *Lover Man* seemed to lack the song's languid yearning. The other singer was the multi-talented Adam Beveridge, who also delivered some fine solos on trumpet. He has a relaxed, debonair stage presence, a smile in his voice and a style that owes something to Sinatra, especially in *I've Got You Under My Skin*.

Instrumental numbers included the Basie classic *Lester Leaps In*, originally featuring Lester Young on tenor sax, and *Bernie's Tune*, made famous by the Gerry Mulligan Quartet. The band was propelled throughout by the dynamic drumming of Jon Buxton, while depth and cohesion were provided by the copper-bottomed baritone sax of Mike Smethurst-Evans.

Gus McGill



Roy Bailey Big Band

Photo: Pete Howard

Another chance to see BoxSet

Local resident Tony Lyons first achieved fame as the drummer with Goring's band The Lightyears. Founded while the boys were still pupils at Langtree School, The Lightyears went on to international fame in 2006 when they were awarded 'UK's Best Pop/Rock Act' at the Indy Awards, and their next album *London England* was co-produced by Hugh Padgham, who previously had produced artists like Genesis, Sting and Paul McCartney.

The Lightyears toured all over Europe, South Africa, Thailand, South Korea, plus three tours of America. They performed for 40,000 people at Wembley Stadium, composed and played the music for the Olympic Flame Ceremony at the 2012 London Olympics and provided the music for Her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth's Birthday Ball. Now married, with families, and other projects (pianist Chris Russell has just published his fifth novel), The Lightyears no longer endure gruelling tours, but still play the occasional summer festivals, including three times at Glastonbury.

But for Tony Lyons, music is everything, and in between The Lightyears shows he devotes time to teaching music to local youngsters in our area, including at the famous Drumclub, which he founded. If that's not enough Tony has another sideline, a musical duo with his old friend George Whitfield, called BoxSet. This remarkable act finds Tony playing drums and guitar at the same time (!) while George plays accordion and theremin, an early electronic invention, which appears invisible, being played by moving arms and hands around to create musical sound waves. BoxSet's first album, *Tinderbox Heart*, received great praise from BBC Radio 2 and this summer BoxSet toured the United States, where they were honoured to be invited to provide music for the US national holiday, Independence Day. 'The only problem we had', said Tony, 'was discovering there is an American band called BoxSet, so we quickly changed our name to BoxSet UK'. Now this remarkable duo has recorded a second album in which they set to music poems by Alfred, Lord Tennyson! BoxSet UK will be performing some of these new songs and others at a special performance on 31 January in a large heated tent outside The Catherine Wheel in Goring. Tony has also invited popular local trio Harlequin to play, and his own Drumclub students will play too! Tickets are £12, on sale now, at www.boxsetuk.com



George and Tony

Seating is very limited, so book your seats now for this evening of unusual musical delights!

Jonathan Clifton

Clarinet and piano recital by Elisha Canolle-Forkin and Olivia Canolle

At 3pm on Sunday 8 February at St Thomas' Church, Goring-on-Thames, Olivia Canolle and her son, Elisha, will be playing a delightful selection of French music for clarinet and piano. Olivia is a highly experienced pianist and piano teacher, and Elisha is in his final year at school. A highly accomplished player, Elisha was a finalist in the Berkshire Maestros Young Musicians of the Year 2024 and is now working towards his performance diploma on the clarinet. The recital is free with a retiring collection towards church expenses at St Thomas'.



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Goring Primary School and Picasso's *Guernica*



Year 6's copy of *Guernica*

The Year 6 Goldcrest class at Goring C of E Primary School, have been studying two different pieces of artwork by Pablo Picasso, *War and Peace* and *Guernica*.

War and Peace is a sketch by Picasso which contains many symbolic images, we studied these then created our own individual responses to the artwork using charcoal and grey drawing pencils.

Guernica is a famous artwork by Picasso which shows flashing bombs, burning buildings and distress. We each did an individual piece of writing imagining ourselves as one of the troubled characters in the picture. We found both artworks interesting and profoundly meaningful.

Calla and Megan

Goring Primary School book sale and fundraising



A few pages ago, on the 26 November, Goring Primary School had a book-tastic book sale. We were thrilled that our lovely teachers brought a lady from Usbourne to sell some books! It was also kind that all our pupils donated their pre-loved books. They were absolutely wonderful! There were different types of books, factual and fiction.

Aria and Anna wrote: 'Alongside the amazing books, we also had brilliant games! All the fundraising is going to be spent on new play equipment for us to play with at school lunchtimes. The games were 'Lucky Dip' and 'Guess the Papers in a Jar' (Calla Smith won the competition with her guess of 45 papers). We also had a 'Guess Higher or Lower Card Game' and you got a sweet if you guessed correctly.'

Alfie wrote: 'Other children from school helped to raise money too: Elena, Libby, Olive, Maya, Tully and Alfie held a bake sale run by Mrs McCutcheon our year 5 TA. They all played a big part in organising the fundraising.'

Libby and Elena wrote: 'We were selling hot chocolate, lemonade, fruit pots, scones, cupcakes and biscuits. It was a great success, and we managed to raise £135! Later that month, there was another event to raise money and £135 turned into £226. We were very pleased with our achievement, but we weren't done yet. We were determined to reach our goal.'

Aria and Anna add: 'The plan was: that if our fundraising total was £100 or over, we would get new cones and balls. If we got £400, we would get table tennis.'

Our total was a phenomenal £406.25, which, means that Goring Primary School will get their very own outdoor table tennis. We are all very excited!

Streatley Hill Preschool marks Remembrance Day

Children and staff from Streatley Hill Preschool gathered together on 11 November to lay a wreath in honour of Remembrance Day. The preschool children walked to the Goring War Memorial, where the children observed a moment of reflection whilst placing their handmade wreath.

Marking Remembrance Day forms part of the preschool's efforts to help even its youngest learners understand themes of appreciation, respect, and community. Staff share with the children about why people wear poppies and how we come together each year to remember those who have served.

Moments such as these help our children feel connected to the traditions of Goring and Streatley, and we were proud to take part.

Chloe Sims

Lead Teacher, Streatley Hill Preschool

Streatley Primary School Harvest Festival and donations

relieving hunger
restoring dignity
reviving hope



In October, Streatley Primary School enjoyed celebrating the Harvest Festival at St Mary's Church. Revd Ben Philips led the service in which the children sang and shared their contributions. The service was full of songs, art, prayers and poems written by the children. Our collective worship team did a wonderful job of leading us with the Bible reading. As a practical expression of this festival our families were invited to donate to the West Berkshire Foodbank. We are told that our donations weighed in at 69.2kg (roughly the same size as an adult emu!). That's enough to provide 145 meals through the food bank. A huge thank you to everyone who contributed.

At <https://westberks.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-money> you can continue to donate and find out more about the work they do

Katherine Williams

Year 1/2 Class Teacher

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SJP Approved 26/02/2024

SJP13884_DS B1 (02/23)

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The Quiet Way

Hello, I'm Jayne Doyle, founder of The Quiet Way. I'm an Integrative Therapist with over 28 years of practice, offering massage therapies, Indian head massage, aromatherapy, reflexology, Thai foot massage, energy work and craniosacral bodywork. Alongside these, I teach yoga, meditation, guided imagery and relaxation strategies, in an embodied, integrated approach.

I hold a BSc in Health Sciences and Complementary Therapies and have undertaken extensive postgraduate training, including diplomas in Mindful Yoga, Quantum Botanicals, and Adapting Therapies for Supportive and Cancer Care. My learning has taken me to Spain, Greece, Asia, and beyond, always seeking the finest teachers to deepen my understanding.

My therapy journey has been diverse and humbling. Some of my experience included travelling to Bosnia, over a three-year period, as a volunteer offering therapies to survivors of war. The experience of working with such dignified, resilient individuals, left a lasting impression on me.

In 2016, I spent a year living and working at an international yoga training and retreat centre in Spain, an invaluable time to deepen my own practice under the Mediterranean sun.

Over the years, I've had the privilege of working with hundreds of people, both through The Quiet Way and within the NHS. My path has included leading and delivering integrative and supportive care across several major hospitals in London and The Christie NHS Trust in Manchester, for the last five years, where I was honoured to serve as the country's first full-time Integrative Therapist.

Working through the pandemic and beyond, I have supported patients through cancer treatment and recovery, offering therapies on the wards, in chemotherapy and radiotherapy suites. These experiences deepened my belief in the power of compassionate, mindful touch to bring calm and connection, even in the most challenging times.

Now based back in Berkshire, I continue to bring this approach to my practice, integrating my clinical experience with the nurturing philosophy at the heart of The Quiet Way.



Cancer support

Alongside my general therapeutic work in clinic, which includes looking after people with general aches and pains, acute and chronic health issues, those looking to support accident, injury or operative recovery, as well as people looking to enhance their general wellbeing, my specialist skills lie in supporting people through all stages of cancer care:

At diagnosis: A cancer diagnosis often brings shock, anxiety, and uncertainty. My sessions at this early stage centre on grounding, supporting the nervous system process difficult news. Gentle massage and craniosacral work, calming essential oils, and mindful relaxation help to ease tension and restore presence.

During treatment: At this stage, therapy must be especially sensitive. Treatments such as chemotherapy, radiotherapy, or surgery can cause fatigue, pain, nausea, and emotional strain. My role is to provide comfort and ease side effects. Reflexology has been shown to reduce pain and anxiety, while gentle massage supports sleep and relaxation. Aromatherapy is used in low concentrations and tailored to sensitivity.

Recovery and living beyond cancer: As treatment ends, many experience a mix of relief, fatigue, and emotional processing. My work here is restorative, using gentle bodywork and essential oils to aid recovery, release tension, and help reconnect with the body, supporting nervous system regulation after prolonged stress.

End of life support: In the final stages, the essence of my work is utmost gentleness, comfort, and human connection. Touch becomes a language of presence and care, the lightest of massages, reassuring holds and nurturing foot reflexology. Essential oils create a tranquil atmosphere. Sessions respond to the moment's need, sometimes in silence, sometimes with breath or words, always with deep respect for the dignity of the person.

Clinics in Goring

At the heart of my practice is an intention to create an environment where you feel safe, comfortable and held; a place to pause, breathe and rest. The name The Quiet Way was born quite spontaneously. Driving from London to Berkshire, I said to my brother: 'I work quietly; there's unspoken communication through touch, I am the quiet way.' The hair on my arms stood up. I knew I had found my business name.

I'm excited to host weekly clinics in Goring, conveniently near the train station, alongside Goring Physio. Whether you seek general therapeutic support or cancer care, I offer flexible 60- or 90-minute sessions to suit your needs.

You can also explore my bespoke luxury aromatherapy products, that include body massage oils, aroma sticks, rollerballs and atomisers. Enjoy a free 15-minute phone consultation to ensure we're the right fit. Connect with me on LinkedIn, Instagram, and Facebook.

Jayne Doyle www.thequietway.com / jayne@thequietway.com / 07928 995653

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BUSINESS continued

Get moving this January with Move It or Lose It keep fit!



Are you looking to add a little fun and activity to your routine this New Year?

Hello, I'm Victoria, and I'm delighted to announce I'm launching Move It or Lose It keep fit classes right here in Goring this January! This is a friendly, fun, and effective class specifically designed for the over 60s. The programme is based on the nationally recognised FABS framework: Flexibility, Aerobics, Balance and Strength, developed in collaboration with the Centre for Healthy Ageing Research.

I was inspired to bring this to Goring after seeing how much my own parents enjoy their weekly keep fit group, not just for the movement but for the wonderful sense of community.

You don't need any prior fitness experience! All exercises are fully adaptable and can be done seated, supported or standing, making them accessible to everyone, regardless of current ability or mobility. The aim is to help you feel good and stay active for longer.

Try Move It or Lose It for free!

My regular weekly classes begin in January. You are welcome to attend your first class for free as a no-obligation way to try Move It or Lose It and see if it's the right fit for you.

Spaces are limited, so reserve your spot today and let's get moving together!

For class bookings, schedule, location, and price details, and for any other questions, please drop me a line at vicmills@btinternet.com



Victoria Mills

From 1887 to today: Goring Social Club is a hub for everyone

A new committee and a modern outlook are breathing fresh life into one of the village's oldest institutions, transforming it into a vibrant, welcoming space for the entire community.

Dating back to 1887, the Goring Social Club has been a fixture in the village for 138 years. Originally founded as the 'Working Men's Club', its purpose was specific. Today, however, the doors and the mindset are wide open. Sitting down with the committee to discuss the club's evolution into a modern community hub, Michele Canning, Club Treasurer, said, 'Our history is something we're incredibly proud of, but we're not resting on tradition alone. Our primary aim is simple: to make the Social Club the most welcoming, affordable and diversified social spot in Goring, a place where every resident feels comfortable walking in.'

This commitment to inclusion is reflected in the club's packed schedule. While the bar area offers a fantastic selection of food and drinks at competitive prices, the amenities are a world away from its 19th-century origins.

'We host everything from our popular Live Sky/TNT Sports events and regular live entertainment, to quieter social games like pool, darts, crib and bingo,' explains Duncan Mills, who helps with club communications. 'And not many people know that we have two full-size snooker tables in the club,' Duncan continues. 'That's a great thing to boast, with so many snooker clubs having closed.'

The club also dedicates time to being a valuable resource for the community, providing a low-cost, welcoming space for local clubs and societies to hold their regular meetings.

The biggest misconception the club faces is that it's still exclusive. 'That couldn't be further from the truth. We are keen to emphasise that new members are always welcome,' the committee affirms.

How to join the community

To access all the club's benefits, including discounted bar prices and access to exclusive events, now is the perfect time to join! New memberships start in January. It costs just £30 p/y for adults, £26 p/y for Seniors and only £5 for Juniors. 'Our junior membership is for 16-17-year-olds and we recommend they come along and use the club as a place to meet with friends and play some games.'

'We encourage you to pop in and see for yourself. Whether you're interested in becoming a member or, better still, have skills and ideas to bring to our management committee team, come and speak to one of our friendly bar staff,' concludes Michele. 'You might just discover your new favourite local spot, right here in the heart of Goring.'

For opening times and more information: <https://goringsocialclub.co.uk>

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Goring Gap Christmas opening hours



Grocery/supplies

- Goring Grocer: 24 Dec 9am-1pm, then closed until 5 Jan
- Goring Food & Wine: open every day 7am-10pm
- Tesco: 24 Dec 7am-10pm, 26 Dec 9am-7pm, 31 Dec 9am-10pm, 1 Jan 8am-10pm
- Goring Village Butcher: 24 Dec 6am-1pm, reopens 27 Dec 8am-1pm (collections only), 31 Dec 7am-2pm
- Jack's: 24 Dec 6am-9pm, 25 Dec 10am-4pm, 26 Dec 6am-8pm, 31 Dec 6am-9pm, 1 Jan 6am-8pm
- Goring Hardware: 24 Dec 9am-2pm, reopens 27 Dec 31 Dec 9am-2pm
- Inspiration: 24 Dec 9am-3.30pm
- Reeds Art & Framing: 24 Dec 10am-12pm, reopens 2 Jan
- Barbara's Antiques: 24 Dec 11am-2pm, Saturday 27 Dec 1pm-4.30pm. 31 Dec 11am-2pm
- Mary S: 24 Dec 9am-2pm. Reopens 2 Jan, regular hours
- Garden Design Company: 24 Dec 10am-1pm. 31 Dec 10am-2pm

Hospitality

- Masooms: 24 Dec 5.30pm-10pm, 26 Dec 5.30-10.30, 31 Dec and 1 Jan 5.30pm-10pm
- Thai Lotus Takeaway: closed 22 Dec until 30 Dec 5.30pm-9pm
- Goring Diner: open regular hours (4.30pm-9pm) except 25 Dec
- Coppa Club: open every day 7am-11pm. 31 Dec 7am-1am
- Pierreponts cafe: 24 Dec 8.30am-2pm. 31 Dec 8.30am-2pm
- Viv's (The Village Cafe): 24 Dec 10am-3pm, 31 Dec 10am-3pm
- The Swan at Streatley Cafe: open every day 8am-5pm
- Goring Social Club: 24 Dec 12noon-12am, 25 Dec 12noon-2pm, 26 Dec 12noon-7.30pm, 31 Dec 3pm-1.30am, 1 Jan 12noon-7.30pm

- The Catherine Wheel: 24 Dec regular hours 25 Dec 12noon-3pm (excl. food), 26 Dec 12noon-3pm, 31 Dec 12noon-late, 1 Jan 12noon-3pm
- The Bull: 24 Dec 12noon-11pm, 25 Dec 12pm-5pm, 26 Dec 12noon-11pm (drinks only), 31 Dec 12noon-3pm, 6pm-12am, 1 Jan 12noon-5pm

Health and Beauty

Goring & Woodcote Medical Practice open regular hours but closed 25, 26 Dec and 1 Jan

- Goring Pharmacy open regular hours but closed on bank holidays (as above)
- Goring Vets 24 Dec 8am-4pm, 31 Dec 8am-7pm, 1 Jan 8am-5.30pm
- Barking Club Grooming Salon closed from 23 Dec. 29, 30 Dec open by appointment only. 31 Dec-5 Jan closed
- Albert Fields 24 Dec 8.30am-2.30pm. Reopens 2 Jan from 8.30am
- Original Pilates Still open throughout for bookings by appointment only
- Avondale Footcare and Beauty 24 Dec regular hours, 29 Dec closed
- Goring Turkish Barber only closed 25, 26 Dec and 1 Jan

Other amenities

- Goring Library 23 Dec closes from 7pm. Reopens 2 Jan 9.30am
- Goring & Streatley Station Ticket Office 24 Dec 6.15am-12.45pm

Unless stated, all the businesses and services will be closed on bank holidays (25, 26 Dec and 1 Jan). For pubs and bars, note: last orders are usually 15-30 minutes before stated closing times due to alcohol licensing rules. Finally, thanks to all the business owners and staff for their cooperation in compiling this information.

Dan Gordon-Potts

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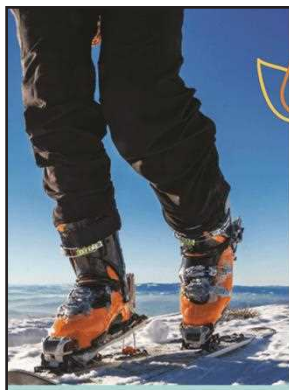
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

who accepts no responsibility for views expressed

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

Weight limit on B4009

Dear Editor—I consider unwarranted levels of HGV traffic to be one of the main ‘threats’ to the character of Streatley and Goring and have followed with interest the recent GGN articles concerning proposals to introduce an HGV weight restriction on the B4009. As District Councillor from 2007 -2023, I was actively involved with setting up the current weight restrictions on the A329 and A417 in Streatley and I thought a little of the background would be helpful to your readers.

Highway surveys around 2005 and 2014 confirmed that most HGV through traffic in Streatley (both legal and illegal) was along the A329 and A417. Very little through traffic used the B4009. As a result, it was decided to retain the 7.5 tonne restriction on the ‘new’ skew bridge on the A329 and to introduce the 18 tonne restrictions on the A329 and A417. These restrictions are periodically enforced and a number of warnings and prosecutions have taken place.

National transport policy at the time (and I assume this still stands), required that at least one unrestricted road access to a village must be retained. Hence the non-restricted B4009.

Sometime, circa 2018/19, WBBC Highways again looked at imposing some restrictions on the B4009. However, it concluded that to do so would have meant lifting the existing restrictions on the A329 to allow for one unrestricted access road. It was decided this would be a worse result for the village as a whole and so everything was left ‘as is’. I can only assume that any proposal in the near future will again come face to face with the same dilemma.

A further issue is the many exemptions that apply to any weight restriction regulation.

Chief amongst these are vehicles travelling to and from farms, or to building sites, or for local deliveries. Indeed, two of the last major incidents at The Bull crossroads involved ‘legal exempt’ farm vehicles (a large tractor and trailer) and an HGV making farm collections/ deliveries. Then there is the definition of ‘local’ deliveries. Are deliveries to Goring (or Woodcote) via Streatley local to Streatley or are they through traffic?

I understand Streatley is planning a refresh of its very successful Parish Plan in 2026. Perhaps this would be a good topic to involve the residents in. Explaining all of the issues (via formal consultation) and then receiving the collective feedback would be very informative

Alan Law

Teenage Cancer Trust plant stall

Dear Editor—We would like to thank everyone who supported our Plant Stall in Wallingford Road, raising money for the Teenage Cancer Trust. This year it raised £1,288.25, which included a very generous donation from the local Whisky Society.

Since the plant stall started in 2004, we have raised an amazing £11,351.92



Nicky Phillips and Ali Boyd

Useful advertisement

Dear Editor—I just wanted to say that I am very grateful to the *Goring Gap News* for advertising the services of an extremely helpful handyman! Through the magazine I was able to find James (see P38) who expertly undertook a small but essential job in our house. We will make use of him again and thoroughly recommend him to others in the area.

Penelope Codner (South Stoke)

Editor request: If you use an advertiser and you found them in GGN, please tell them. We are dependent on our advertisers for the money to pay the printer.

Christmas tree

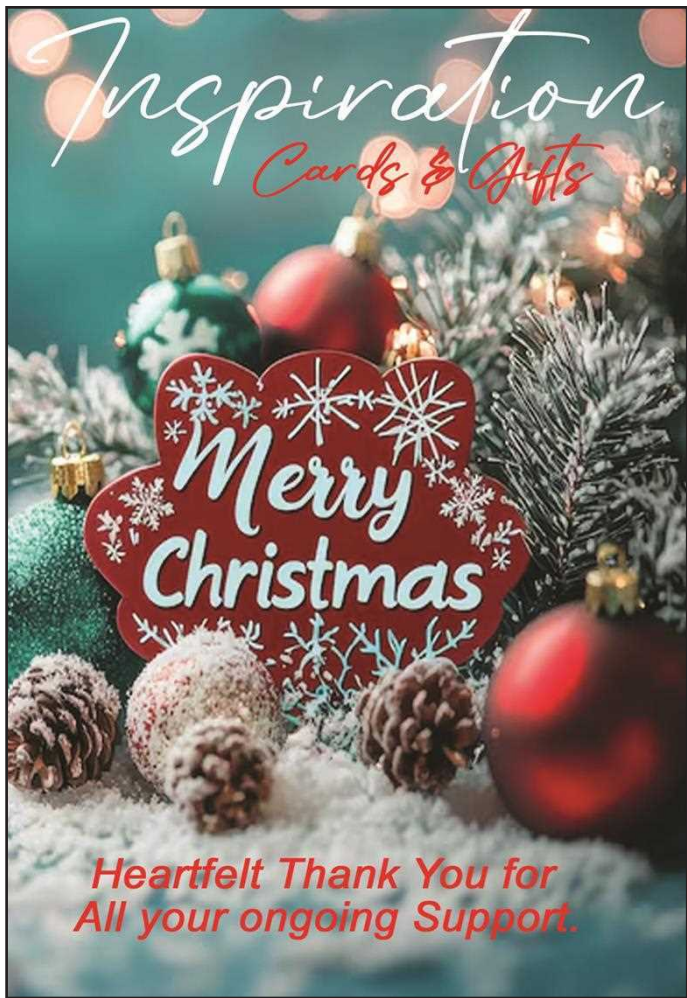
Dear Editor—This year the Parish Council approved a larger tree for the Rectory Garden and the 17ft Norway Spruce was installed on 27 November with over 100m of LED lights attached by Festival Vision!

Grateful thanks to Roger Edmunds for assisting with the collection and delivery of the tree to the Rectory Garden and the super strong team from M&C Landscapes who lifted it into place.



*Sarah Edmunds
Goring Parish Council Clerk*

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and a Happy New Year

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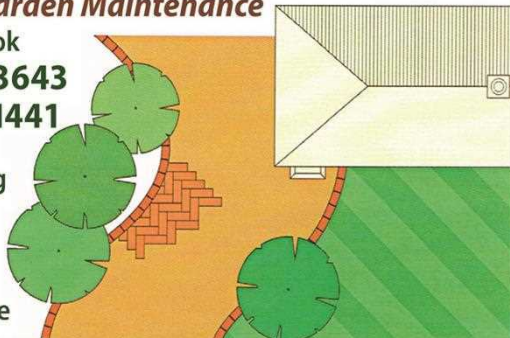
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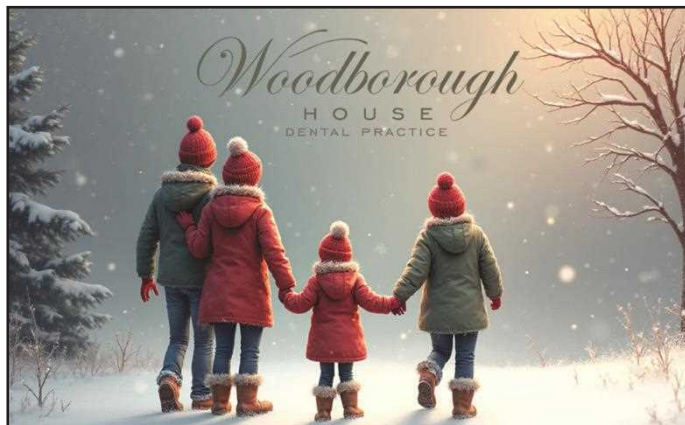
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Christmas services in the Gap

With good wishes from all the churches in Goring, Streatley and South Stoke



St Thomas of Canterbury, Goring

Sunday 21 December

4pm—Traditional Carol service

Wednesday 24 December Christmas Eve

10.30am—Families at the Crib*

11.15pm—Christmas Night Communion

9.30am—Family Holy Communion*

Thursday 25 December Christmas Day

St Mary's, Streatley

Sunday 21 December

11.15am—Traditional Carol service

Thursday 25 December Christmas Day

9.30am—Family Holy Communion*

St Andrew's, South Stoke

Wednesday 24 December Christmas Eve

4pm—Carols at the Crib

Thursday 25 December Christmas Day

11am—Family Holy Communion

* Services especially suitable for children

see www.ThomAndMary.org.uk

Our Lady & St John

Saturday 20 December

7am Rorate Masses celebrated by candlelight

Wednesday 24 December Christmas Eve

5pm Vigil Mass

10pm at Goring—Mass of Christmas Night

Thursday 25 December Christmas Day

7am—Mass of the Dawn (Latin)

8am—Mass of the Dawn (English)

10am—Mass of the Day

For Confessions, Home Communion and all other

services, please see www.ourladyandstjohnngoring.org.uk

Goring Free Church

Sunday 21 December

10.30am—Morning service

6.30pm—Carols by candlelight

Thursday 25 December Christmas Day

10am—Family celebration

see www.goringfreechurch.org.uk

A Christmas thought

What are we looking for this Christmas?

We are all prone to 'confirmation bias'. We tend to absorb the bits of information we are selectively looking for – which fit our world view, and ignore all that is contrary to it. We do it with family or community behaviour, our shopping, as well as our politics and ethics. We might be tempted to do the same about God, or even Christmas!

How many missed that baby's birth? Were so near but stubbornly looking for their own 'interests' or 'obsessions'. Do we miss what is under our noses? The wise men looked for him in a palace and found him in a cattle trough. How may our horizons and possibilities be stretched? How do we do this? I guess silence, listening and open-eyed wonder before this new baby and trying to understand a life that willingly walked to a cross for you, is a good start. Let us ask God to open our minds and hearts to see the gift given to us and all creation. The local churches wish you a joy-filled Christmas and invite you to join together with others. *O come let us adore Him.*

Ben Phillips

Goring & Streatley community Christmas Gathering

Christmas is a time of year which everyone should share with their family, friends and neighbours. So, this year I am organising a place for everyone in Goring and Streatley to meet up for a cup of tea/coffee and a slice of cake.

The Christmas Gathering will take place on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day between 12 and 4pm in Goring Community Centre, Station Road.

There are ten or so car parking spaces behind the Hall and of course the Wheel/Orchard carpark is just a stroll up the road.

Everyone is welcome –families with children, couples, friends visiting, those of us over 50, those who are on their own for Christmas...and those who want to escape family for a short respite!

At some point we have someone coming to play the keyboard, and we will have a carol singalong, but in the main it will be a chance to get to know your neighbours over a cuppa, biscuit or cake. Everyone is welcome to pop in for as long as they like.

For the younger members of the community there will be some colouring books, and pencils supplied by the wonderful Jeanne and Kevin of Inspirations.

If you can bake a cake or mince pies to donate, we would be very grateful, but please let me know in advance.

If you are available to help, please contact Dee Singleton, at Reeds Art and Framing in the Arcade or telephone (01491) 902122, email dee@reedsartandframing.co.uk.

Lowland Rescue

I live in Goring and I volunteer with a rarely noticed public service. You've probably heard of the RNLI, Mountain Rescue and possibly even Cave Rescue, but I'll be willing to bet that not very many people have ever heard of Lowland Rescue. There is a good reason for this, but first let me introduce us.

What is OxSAR?

Lowland Rescue Oxfordshire (OxSAR as we are better known), is one of 34 teams nationwide. We provide Search and Rescue services to Thames Valley Police and support to Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service. Our primary role is to search for vulnerable missing people and to bring them to safety. Sometimes our role is search and recovery which, whilst a very sad and sometimes traumatic role, is equally important to reunite those missing persons with their family and loved ones. Another important role is to provide resilience support, flood relief services, medical and community support services in times of local or national emergency. Lowland Rescue also assist in supporting major events (such as the late Queen's funeral and the King's Coronation).

To do all of this work takes a lot of willing, professionally trained, volunteers, giving up their time and often self-funding personal equipment. We come from all walks of life, from librarians to serving police officers, serving and ex-military personnel, health care professionals, business consultants to warehousing managers to retirees and everything between! All making ourselves available to be called out 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Working quietly

So, why don't most people know of Lowland Rescue? It's very simple really, the people that need our services are generally very vulnerable and the last thing they need is publicity. We conduct our operations professionally and with sensitivity. Often working through the night and in relatively remote areas, we do try to remain out of the public gaze. Unlike our colleagues in Mountain Rescue or on the lifeboats, our service users often don't know they are missing, or are deliberately seeking to be away from everything and everyone. This makes our task very challenging and does require some very specific skill sets that can only come with a high degree of training and experience.

Our smart canine searchers

As those of you that came and met us at the Christmas Shopping Evening on 5 December and visited our Incident Command Vehicle (ICU) will have no doubt noticed, we do have some very clever dogs that work with us too (and their handlers are quite smart it has to be said...). We currently have eight operational search dogs and a further 12 in training. Training usually takes at least two years and this is addition to the handler's 'normal' search duties. We have four varieties of search dog: two types of 'Air-scent' dogs that are trained to cover large areas or specific routes and paths; 'Drowned Victim' search dogs, a very specialised dog that works from the bank or on a boat; and 'Trailing' (or scent discriminating) dogs that follow the scent trail of a specific person, ignoring all others. All our dogs are also the pets of the handlers and live full time with them. Once again, all costs are born by the handler.

Water search support

Our water team has four inflatable boats and two rafts, a sonar system to look for persons under the surface, underwater cameras for location and survey and three trailers to move them all around. All members of the water team are trained to national standards. The Thames Valley has a lot of water and annual flooding, which seems to be getting worse each year; this often makes what at first may be a land search suddenly become a water search. By having these resources on hand we can cover all areas safely, quickly and very effectively.

Looking down

Our RPAS (remotely piloted aircraft system) or drone team, operates a fleet of four drones. Two — the DJI Matrice 30T



Drowned victim detection dogs returning to RV



Training for recovery of casualty from river

in the Goring Gap

and the DJI Mavic 2 Enterprise Advanced — are our frontline operational aircraft equipped with advanced thermal imaging and zoom for day and night work. Our two older aircraft remain in use for training and skills development.

Our pilots train to the high standards expected by UKSAR, the Civil Aviation Authority and our partner agencies. Working alongside Thames Valley Police in the search for high-risk, vulnerable missing persons, the drone unit supports foot teams, dog teams, water units, medical teams and search management. Capabilities include rapid aerial searching, thermal detection and live video feeds to the Incident Control Unit.

We also assist Oxfordshire Fire & Rescue Service and the Local Resilience Forum by providing fast, safe aerial intelligence during major incidents, wildfires, flooding, storm damage and other emergencies where an overhead perspective improves safety and decision-making. The team have recently been assisting OFRS by looking for potential hot spots in the huge illegal waste dump in Kidlington.

The cost of our latest drone was in excess of £10,000! Not an easy sum to raise entirely by donation.

Taking care of the rescued

And finally, and I must declare an interest here, we have a superb Medical Team, of which I have the privilege of leading. All our operational Licenced Search Technicians are trained to the same national first responder standard as all other UK Search and Rescue organisations. This includes basic life support, dealing with traumatic injuries and providing a very high standard of first aid. We then have a team of more highly trained Casualty Carers, qualified at nationally recognised and accredited standards, providing pre-hospital care. Our team includes doctors, Advanced Nurse Practitioners, paramedics, Advanced Casualty Carers and Community First Responders. Our vehicles all carry response medical kits including medical gasses, AEDs (defibrillators), extrication and extraction equipment, scene lighting and a selection of different stretchers. As with all medical equipment, the upkeep and replacement are not cheap. For example, we have two AEDs and two training AEDs which are coming to the end of their operational life and will need £4,500 raised to replace them.

Funding

One way we raise funds is by providing water safety services to regattas and water events. We have four boats of varying sizes for our search and rescue activities and very highly trained crews. Bringing in funds by providing safety services enables us to engage with the public and build those community relationships that are so vital to our being able to fund-raise and also raise the profile of the team.

A vocation

So, as you can see, there is a lot going on, much of it out of sight but all incredibly important. Last year we attended 101 searches, that's almost two per week! Add to that the training days and you can see what commitment this takes, not just from the volunteers but also their long-suffering families and loved ones (over 15,000 hours volunteered time). Many has been the occasion when the alarm goes up, and we drop everything to dash out of the door to wherever we are needed (and often not even in the Thames Valley as we are available for mutual support anywhere). And yes, it has happened on more than one Christmas Day as well as many important birthdays and holidays.

This is a very rewarding and challenging vocation, it requires a certain mindset, resilience and humour. I never cease to wonder at the people I work alongside, their dedication and fortitude, commitment to go out in all weathers and conditions, any time of day or night for someone they have never met but who needs their help to bring them to safety.

Search and Rescue (and recovery) can also be very traumatic for our team members and we have a fantastic team of Trauma Risk Managers (TRiM) that provide immediate support and signposting to the help any of our team may need. We also have each other to provide support and encouragement, friendship and comradery.

Learn more and support us

If you would like to know more about what we do, or how you could support our work by joining us, donating or corporate support, please contact me.

Cliff Woodward

cliff.woodward@oxsar.org.uk

Lowland Rescue Oxfordshire, registered charity number 1186548



*The author and his trailing dog
(discriminating scent dog) Wooster*



*QR code OxSAR
collection QR*

Streatley Parish Council – The Year of 2025

That was the year that was! Streatley seems to have survived, minor changes were progressed as planned, the essence of the village was maintained and generally, all seems to be intact. Here's what happened in the World of the Parish Council.

Recreation Ground

Last spring, we engaged a contractor to perform tree canopy pruning and removal of a number of dead trees for safety purposes in the Recreation Ground. Saving money, we fixed fences and made minor repairs ourselves. Cllr Emma Jhita conducts a regular inspection to bring issues to light and the annual RoSPA inspection last April raised only minor matters which have been addressed. Together with Cllr Mark Davis, Emma has been arranging for a couple of new items to be installed in the New Year – we hope you enjoy them. Unsurprisingly, there are differing ideas received as to how to enhance the 'Rec' – most of which will break the budget but who knows, with a little fundraising?

Litter not picked

Each year in the spring, the council organises a roadside litter pick, advertising locally for volunteers to avoid the excessive costs of engaging a contractor for the task but, for the second year running, only councillors joined in! As no other residents of the parish volunteered, we have reached the conclusion that village roadsides are considered to be sufficiently clear of rubbish. I invite views on this issue as I certainly note a degree of detritus, especially alongside the main through-roads and where the school buses drop off their cargo.

Lights and cabinets



Virgin grey cabinet yet to be moved

The parish council spent just under 10% of the precept funding on streetlighting electricity, repairs and replacements. We own 31 lamps with two thirds now switched for LED units – cheaper to run and replacement sodium lamps are no longer available. The final ones are likely to be converted in the near future.

Working with West Berkshire Council (WBC), we supported the move of the Virgin Media grey cabinets adjacent the old bus shelter at the crossroads to a more secluded location in the foliage adjacent Lardon Cottages in front of the current old BT cabinet. Cabinets are necessary and need to be accessible but should be hidden. As the move presents only cost to the contractor, the work moves slowly but the foundation was finally placed in October indicating that a cabinet move is soon to be a reality.

Speed limit, HGVs and EVs

Led by Cllr Adrian Lockwood about a year ago, agreement was reached with WBC for public consultations this year regarding reduction of the Streatley Hill speed limit to 40mph, notably at the top where the National Trust and golf course paths cross the road. We wait with bated breath to observe the resultant actions as promised during this current financial year and with three months still to go, there is still hope before we may take up the issue once again.

Ongoing is our campaigning to apply a 7.5T vehicle weight restriction on Streatley Hill. Currently articulated trucks may access the village only via this route but, legally, must turn around and go back up the hill which makes no practical sense as the other three exit roads already have weight limits. The real answer is a complete ban on un-permitted larger vehicles passing through Streatley and this is almost unanimously supported by our residents as revealed in the survey conducted over the summer.

Both EV charge posts, adjacent The Meadows, were energised during the year but little usage has been noted so far – they are there if you want them. Salt bins are also all topped up ready for the coming winter.

Remembrance in November

Red is the colour of the poppies reflecting the flowers of Flanders, location of the horrendous battles of the First World War. Now representing the service of all our personnel in all wars, the symbol was much on display through Goring and Streatley over the first half of November this year. If you wondered as to how the street display of poppies suddenly materialised through Goring and Streatley, ask Cllr Nick Barnes – a week before Remembrance Sunday volunteers from the two villages were out with step ladders and long arms to fix the poppies to the roadside street lamp posts and assorted furniture. This revealed a feature along the High Streets both sides of the river. As the road passes through the central areas, lamp posts are replaced by brackets attached at high level to buildings, hence poppy presence reflected the locations of the lamp posts.



Recreation Ground fences repaired by your councillors



High Street lamp posts gradually changing to LEDs

Crime and Planning

Fortunately, Streatley continued to be a low crime area over the last 12 months although there have been incidents of burglary, car theft, unacceptable behaviour and a 'Rave' up on the Ridges (did you attend?) as reported to Thames Valley Police (TVP). Cllr Jeremy Spring liaises with TVP to share information and offer proposals when considered useful.

Out of the 62 planning applications we reviewed in 2025, we only objected to two of them although offered comments for consideration on several of the more significant applications. 45 were eventually approved, seven were rejected, two were withdrawn and the balance await a decision. Our firm mandate, from local survey and the Parish Assembly feedback, is to mitigate the effects of changes and conserve the village assets inherited from days gone by. Aside from necessary attention to a few proposals which occasionally emerge, most applications reflect the mandate. However, actual planning adjudication is by West Berkshire Council, not parish councils.

Torchlight Procession and MP visit

Attendance numbers at the Christmas Eve Torchlight Procession and Carol Service highlights the popularity of the event within the local region, even though the event is deliberately under-advertised due to the limitation of resources to control the larger crowds who may be attracted from afar. Hence 'well done' to Ian Helmschrott-Bowden and the whole organisation committee.

At the Parish Assembly, in May '25, we had the opportunity to welcome Olivia Bailey, who has been our MP into a second year, representing the ward of Reading West and Mid Berkshire. It was a pleasure to hold the meeting, share the views of Streatley residents and detect that our MP has our interests in mind.

Parish Plan – please respond

On the SPC website (www.Streatley.org) you will find the current survey regarding the updating of the Parish Plan. Last updated nearly ten years ago, it is now time to re-appraise our ambitions for the parish. Please take part such that we can direct our views into the West Berks Planning committee for their considerations and understanding. Our target is to publish the document in time for the Parish Assembly in 2026.

New councillor and audits

Parish councillors receive no remuneration for services and it is greatly appreciated when members of the community volunteer to take part solely for their interest in local matters. Hence, we welcome the recent co-opting of Jane Carrington who brings us up to full strength and who will no doubt contribute to the collective views as to the management of the village amenities for which we are responsible.

Finally, we passed through our two audits unscathed, receiving only helpful suggestions as to the need for specific changes due to upcoming governmental initiatives. Policies, accounts and reports are all available on the SPC website, together with the ongoing surveys, contact details and event notifications. We meet in the Morrell Rooms at 7.50pm on the second Monday of each month except August. It's a good opportunity to attend and present your views.

So, what will 2026 bring – no doubt a few more applications to change the village residences, Recreation Ground changes, possibly some movement towards district council consolidations, heavy traffic limitations etc. We wish you all a rewarding twelve months.

Colin Smith
Chairman, Streatley Parish Council



*Cllrs Emma Jhita and Nick Barnes
attaching poppies to lamp post*



*Cllr Colin Smith welcomes MP Olivia
Bailey to the Parish Assembly*


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Langtree School – autumn update



We are now settled into the new academic year and as always it has been a busy time at Langtree school.

We were delighted to welcome record visits at our 'Open' events this term. It was a pleasure to showcase all that Langtree has to offer and to see so many families keen to become part of our vibrant school community. Our students were, as always, outstanding ambassadors for the school, and we were immensely proud of the way they represented the school. They acted as tour guides, demonstrators in departments and some were brave enough to give speeches to a hall full of parents and primary school pupils. Parents were universally impressed by their attitude, pride in the school and general maturity.

Sponsored walk

On Friday 19 September the annual Langtree Sponsored Walk took place. It was a lovely day with bright sunshine and was wonderful to see the whole school community taking part, raising funds for the school (over £6,000!) and enjoying the beautiful countryside together. As ever our students were amazing representatives for the school. The school council will be determining how these extra funds will be spent to benefit all pupils.

Geography field trip

Another highlight of the term was the Year 11 Geography field trip to Swanage, Dorset. 59 students took part in a range of fieldwork activities to support their GCSE studies; it is a compulsory part of their course. Students study a range of geographical issues, learning appropriate ways of collecting the relevant data and analysing the data to reach valid conclusions. They saw 'real life' geographical examples to support their classroom learning. The trip was a great success and an excellent example of learning beyond the classroom.

Football stars

Outside of school we celebrated the success of three of our Year 8 students who are part of the Vale of White Horse County U13's football team. In the recent match against West Sussex all three, Dexter, Marius and Nath played. The match started off a little slow but all found their pace and won with a resounding 9-0 win. All 3 Langtree boys got assists. Nath scored 1 goal. They were amazing!

Christmas musical

By the time GGN is delivered, Langtree's whole school Christmas production of *Elf – The Musical* will be over. Run on four nights, it involved students from across the school – be it on stage, performing in the band, or as backstage crew.

Kathryn Foster
Langtree School Trustees

Scout Group Remembrance Day



The 2nd Goring & Streatley BBS Scout Group paraded outside Goring Village Hall before marching off to St Mary's Church, Streatley, led by 13-year-old bagpiper Josh West and his brother, 10-year-old snare drummer Archie West – what a great performance they both gave. Crowds came out to witness the parade and take photos. Our uniformed Scouts, Wolf Cubs and Beavers looked smart and the Scout Group's flag bearers did a great job, on the march and around the War Memorial.

The Scout Group played several very important roles in the service. After the service the Scout Group formed a Guard of Honour for the congregation to pass through, whilst piper Josh and drummer Archie played at the Church gates. A big thank you to them for making the parade so memorable.

The troop marched back to the Rectory Gardens for photos and dismissal. Well done to all those who took part, demonstrating that we will 'not forget' the sacrifices made.

David Cooksley
Group Scout Master, 0118 943 2937

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The GAP Festival returns 2026

The countdown begins! The sixth biennial GAP Festival returns to Goring and Streatley next June, promising ten days of vibrant performances, creative workshops, and inspiring moments across the villages.

While the full programme is still under wraps, we're excited to welcome back some much-loved events and introduce fresh ideas to surprise and delight. From music and theatre to visual arts and family fun, there'll be something for everyone. If you want to be the first to hear about the programme of events and when tickets go on sale, don't forget to sign up to our mailing list at www.thegapfestival.org

As plans for the 2026 GAP Festival take shape, we're delighted to confirm that local residents Ginny Avery and Max Heron are kindly giving their time once again to lead the charge as Artistic Director and Festival Manager, respectively. Their vision and dedication continue to shape the Festival's creative spirit and smooth delivery.

Supporting them is a committed group of Trustees, who meet regularly to guide the registered charity's direction and ensure sound governance and financial stewardship.

And at the heart of it all is our incredible team of wider volunteers — the lifeblood of the Festival. From Event Managers and Marketing Leads to Bar Manager and Ticketing Coordinator, these talented individuals are already hard at work behind the scenes. Many are returning from previous years, bringing valuable experience, while others joined us following our recent GAP Festival Community event — a productive evening that sparked new connections and fresh energy. We're deeply grateful to every volunteer generously giving their time and skills to help bring the GAP Festival to life. It simply wouldn't happen without them.

We still need your help

Aside from all the volunteers we'll need next year during the ten-days itself, the team is still in need of support with one final event. This is an exciting new addition for the GAP Festival programme. You would be supporting a well-established artist who will be designing and running a new interactive immersive experience. You'll just help to bring the final details, timings and logistics together. If this could be you, please contact Adrienne at help@gapfestival.org

Give the gift of discovery to a child in our community

Another way to support the GAP Festival charity is to become a Friend of the Festival.

This year by giving a donation of just £50, you'll help sponsor a Journey of Discovery for children in our community.

We're offering a variety of children's events in 2026, from discovering the natural world and performing arts workshops to creative crafting, storytelling and play. We want to make these ticket costs low and where possible free. Your donation will open a world of discovery to the next generation.

In thanks for your support, the children will create a special, handmade gift just for you during the Festival. Plus, you'll be invited to our afternoon tea reception for Sponsors and Friends at the final teatime Festival Concert.

This isn't just a donation; it's an investment in the future of our community. Together, let's spark a Journey of Discovery for the next generation.

Find out more and sign up today at www.thegapfestival.org/get-involved/become-a-friend



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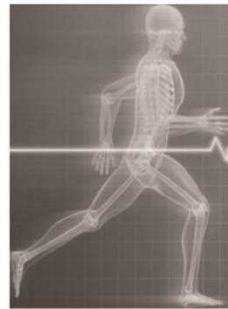
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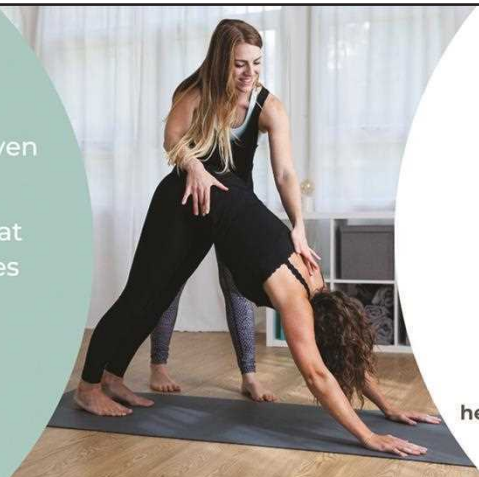
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LIVES REMEMBERED

Linda Rosi 20.8.1942 – 5.9.2025

Linda grew up in Ealing with her parents and brother. During her younger years she was a talented and highly respected swimmer, competing at a high level until around the age of sixteen. Eventually, Linda decided she wanted to enjoy beautiful clothes, Mary Quant-inspired hairstyles and dancing – so the swimming had to go!

She adored the energy of London in the sixties. Working in the West End suited her perfectly and one of her favourite jobs was at the telephone exchange. She also loved having all the shops right on her doorstep; Carnaby Street and Jermyn Street were regular lunchtime haunts. It's been said that Linda would sooner buy a new dress than pay the milkman on time! Evenings were often spent in Soho, visiting its many lively bars and jazz clubs.

After Linda married her husband Frank, they left London behind and moved to the countryside. Her parents were already living in Benson and Linda and Frank eventually settled in Sreatley with their two sons – Nick, the eldest and Alex. As the boys grew, the family needed more space and moved to Moultsford, where they spent many years before finally finding their forever home in Goring, where Linda lived for over thirty years.

Linda worked at Dennis Clark's for several years – then located next to the John Barleycorn – and later joined Richard Wilson Solicitors, where she remained until retiring. Anyone who knew Linda will remember how much she loved waving and saying hello to people passing the office window. She especially cherished visits from her son when he worked at the Miller of Mansfield, or from her daughter-in-law Laura from Warmingham, both of whom would pop in for a chat. Linda formed many lasting friendships in both workplaces and remained close to her colleagues well into retirement. And it was clear how much she cherished spending time with her two grandchildren, Ella and Molly, too, often taking them on theatre trips to London when they were younger.

In 2006, Linda sadly lost her beloved husband Frank. It was an extremely difficult time, but the support of the village and the many friends she had made helped her through. After retiring, Linda embraced community life wholeheartedly. She took part in walking groups, theatre outings, dancing, singing for fun and the wonderful talks organised by the u3a. The friendships she formed through these groups became some of the most meaningful of her life – far too many to mention individually, but each deeply cherished.

Linda truly loved Goring and her retired life there – whether enjoying lunch with family, or coffee with 'the girls' at one of the village's many cafés, especially their favourite, Pierreponts (affectionately known among them as 'P and Ps'). She was always proud to support local businesses and village events, from the Goring Gap Players to the torchlight procession, Jubilee celebrations and the Goring Regatta.

Linda's family would like to thank everyone who attended her funeral and express how deeply touched they were to see so many familiar faces from across the years. Genuinely, it meant so much to them to know how loved she was. Equally, Linda's family would particularly like to take the opportunity to publicly acknowledge and thank the amazing care Linda received by Sue Ryder in the last few weeks of her life.

Finally, on Linda's and her family's behalf, 'thank you' to all her friends and neighbours for the joy, friendship and laughter you shared with her. She truly loved you all.



A warm Cleeve Lodge Christmas for our Goring community

As the festive season approaches, we are reminded that Christmas is a time for warmth, togetherness and looking out for one another. Here at Cleeve Lodge residential care home, our residents, families and team truly embody the spirit of community – and this year, we would love to extend that spirit beyond our walls.

We know that Christmas can feel lonely or quiet for some people, especially those who may be living on their own or spending the season away from family. If you, or someone you know in the village, would appreciate some company and a warm home-cooked Christmas dinner, we would be delighted to welcome you to join us at Cleeve Lodge.

Our Christmas Day includes:

A traditional festive roast with all the trimmings.

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Music, games, and plenty of Christmas cheer.

The chance to spend the day in the company of our residents and staff, who always love meeting new faces.

There is no charge for this – it is simply our small way of giving something back to a village that has supported our family-run home for so many years. If you would like to reserve a place for yourself or someone in the community who could use some company, please give us a call on [01491 871 325](tel:01491871325). Spaces are limited so do get in touch early.

From everyone at Cleeve Lodge, we wish you all a joyful, peaceful, and connected Christmas. Our door is always open.

Sunni

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Goring-on-Thames Parish Council

The principal points of the Goring Parish Council meeting on 10 November are summarised below. The draft minutes will be available at www.goringparishcouncil.gov.uk in due course.

- The Gap Festival made a request for a grant to help the 2026 Festival and this was approved in principle.
- The Council voted to postpone any resolutions about offering the Old Jubilee Fire Station for sale on the open market if a completion date for the sale had not been set by the end of the Council's current Financial Year (31 March 2026).
- The Council noted the Remembrance Poppy Display that has been installed on the Rectory Garden and the positive feedback it has received. The plan will be to reuse the display next year.
- The Council noted the final tranche of LED light conversions (on the bridge) is due to be completed prior to Christmas. It will save the Parish around £6.5k in running costs next year in addition to greater reliability and this task would not have been possible to complete so promptly without the assistance of Cllr T Thurston.
- The Council approved updated policies for data protection, requests for information, subject access and a data breach response plan.

Next meetings: **Bellême** Room, Goring Village Hall 8 December 7.30pm and 9 February 7.30pm. See www.goringparishcouncil.gov.uk for agendas, a few days before the meeting.

Beyond Playgrounds – Recreational facilities for older children in Goring

Like all parish councils, Goring-on-Thames faces the challenges of meeting the needs of all residents, young and old alike. In the last year, the council has delivered a fantastic new playground on the Bourdillon field and a new one will be built on the Gardiner field early next year, replacing, but honouring, the now rather tired and small playground.

Unfortunately, after all this effort, a small group took it upon themselves to try and create an improvised 'pump track' on the Bourdillon Field, digging large holes, making ramps and destroying grass surface and in the process creating a hazard for walkers and small children. The holes have now been filled in and grass seed scattered but it has brought into focus the lack of recreational facilities for older children in our village. We know how important it is for older children and teenagers to have spaces of their own, and we understand the frustration that some initiatives seem to have been talked about for many years without visible progress.

The Open Spaces Review that took place in 2022 helped shape priorities. The playgrounds were at the head of the queue, and we are delighted to have delivered these in a relatively short time. Pending formal decisions councilors are now actively exploring options for older children, including things like a pump track as well as a safe meeting space for young teenagers. However, none of these are easy processes and involve not simply finding the right place but also public consultation, planning applications and funding. Any new facility must be created safely, responsibly, and with local support, which takes time. We'll keep the community updated as plans develop.

Over the last 12 months, as well as delivering new playgrounds, the council has delivered several other important projects like upgrading all our streetlighting, pedestrian lanes in Station Road, Sheepcot and the station car park and other safety initiatives. These projects all require time and funding; we are all working hard – alongside other priorities – to ensure young people are not overlooked.

Councillors are all unpaid volunteers, and care deeply about making Goring a great place to live for everyone. It's very easy to make comments on social media about what the council might be doing, or failing to do, without understanding what is happening behind the scenes. If you are interested in village facilities for young people, or older residents alike, we urge you to get involved, join our council meetings (you can also watch them via livestream), read the minutes, or – better still – consider volunteering as a councillor yourself when the next vacancy arises. Community projects happen most quickly when more people are willing to help shape them. In the meantime, parents, please stop your children taking matters into their own hands and damaging shared spaces. We don't want to be killjoys, but we do want Goring to be safe and pleasant for all residents.



Sonia Lofthouse Chair, Goring-on-Thames Parish Council

The Big Leaf Clear Up

A big thank you to all the volunteers who grabbed brooms and leaf pickers and helped clear streets of leaves as part of the Council's Clean Up day on 8 November. It was a massive task, but we were blessed with good weather and many, many bags were filled ready for collection by OCC. It was good to see people who were inspired by the leaf clearers, come out later in the day to clear more leaves. Now, after some windy weather, most leaves have fallen. But all the rain makes them very slippery, so if you notice leaves outside your property or near your house, please think about clearing them away. It could help prevent people slipping and injuring themselves. Helpers on the day were rewarded with daffodil bulbs (and chocolate) so we're looking forward to some lovely colour in spring.

Cllr Robin Williamson



Cllrs Toby Thurston, Nick Mallen and Robin Williamson with the haul of leaves collected by 30 volunteers



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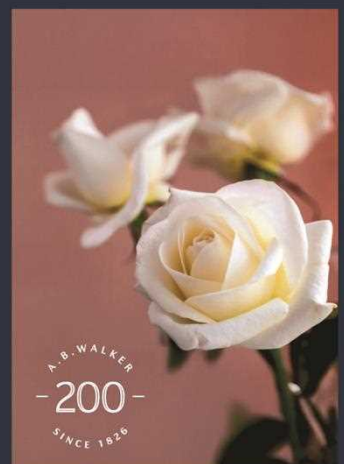
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Silver and gongs for Henley Trinity Hall Rifle Club

At the Oxfordshire Rifle Association Annual Dinner and Prizegiving in November, your local shooting club collected a respectable number of awards. Goring resident Ian King, Club Coach and County Smallbore Captain, represented the club and received from the Chief Guest James Macnamara DL, Vice Lord Lieutenant, the following awards for smallbore shooting:

Winter League 2024/25

Division 2 Challenge Cup and 2 medals (J Wetten, I King)

Division 3 League Competition Cup and 2 medals

(C Gibbs, D Mayer)

Class 'B' Medal J Wetten

Class 'C' Medal D Mayer

Summer League 2025

Division 2 medal (D Meyer)

Division 2 Pairs 2 medals (J Crawley-Page, J Scott-Wood)

Summer Meeting 2025

Pressed Steel Cup and 3 medals (I King, J Wetten, H Taylor)

Veteran's Championship Trophy and medal (I King)



An impressive haul for Trinity Hall

Shooting in the 2025/26 Berkshire and Oxfordshire Winter Leagues is now under way and several members are representing their counties (Oxfordshire or Berkshire) in the national Inter County Leagues. The club promotes smallbore shooting in a variety of disciplines: prone, benchrest and lightweight sports rifle. We have a visually impaired shooter competing in VI leagues and hope to expand this activity. We welcome experienced and novice shooters to partake in this demanding and rewarding sport.

More information can be found at www.henleytrinityhallrifleclub.com

Ian King

Sailing Club update

An eventful summer was had at Goring Thames Sailing Club. Some of the key moments are set out below:

Summer party and Olympians' visit

June saw our annual summer party combined with a visit by British Olympic sailors Anna Burnet and John Gimson. John and Anna were Silver Medallists in the Nacra 17 class at the Tokyo Games in 2021. They narrowly missed out on a medal in Marseille in 2024 and are on track to win a place in the Los Angeles team in 2028. They gave us a fascinating talk which took us on their twenty-year journey of dedication, focus and resilience. Anna and John loved the chance to speak to our young sailors and help grow the future of our sport while also telling us of their America's Cup experiences.

NSSA National Youth Regatta

In July, we took a team of eleven young sailors to the NSSA regatta from West Oxfordshire, Goring and Dorchester clubs.

Around 225 entries from all over the country competed across eight fleets and three course areas. All our team sailed very well and grew throughout the week in the wide variety of conditions at the wonderful sailing venue of Rutland.

From Goring:

- Lucia Kennedy and Sophia Bakry made great progress and by the end of the week were firmly mid fleet in the RS Fevas.
- Ellie Lowery made her first visit to the regatta and had a fun and rewarding week in the Rookie Topper fleet.
- Will Paddick sailed with Dorchester's Sophia Thompson in a RS Feva and had a blast.
- Alex Holman and Will Almond sailed a Laser Vago and beat the other Vagos while mastering a trapeze boat that neither had raced before.
- Huge thanks to Oxfordshire's Team Leaders: Dan Lowery, Jo and Beth Almond who made the whole week run so smoothly.



Sailing club at sunset

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Friday evening Youth Club and Saturday morning Kids Club

Andrew Simpson continues to provide great training for our young sailors at our weekly sessions from Easter to mid-July. This year we have had good attendance most weekends and across all sessions. Including our school holiday sailing courses and Watersports Activity Weeks, we trained 76 children this year. Impressively, that is more than half of our young membership.

Our partnership with the Andrew Simpson Centre is a key part of our offer to members and both ASC and us are committed to providing training at Goring and building water safety, confidence and new friendships for our Youth and Juniors.

Success at Topper Worlds

'Chapeau' to Mattie Svendsen who represented the club at the Topper Worlds in The Netherlands in July. In biblically strong conditions Mattie narrowly missed out on Gold Fleet qualification after an epic sail. Over the next few days he fought back in the Silver Fleet to win the Silver medal and pull off the best international regatta result at our club for many years.



Mattie Svendsen battling biblical weather at Topper Worlds

Debbie Hedley

Goring Primary School Running Club – winter report

You may have seen Goring Primary School Running Club over the last couple of months, mostly on the paths near the school or on Cow Hill, but sometimes further afield. This term saw a record number of children join in, with over 50 children starting their day running before school.

We have seen improvement in the children's stamina over the term, especially in those new to the club. And the last session before the club's winter break saw the children demonstrate real grit and determination, running in cold, wet conditions and even some snow!

Many thanks to all that support the club.

Samantha Saye and Abbie Waters
Running Club Leaders



Goring Primary School Running Club braving the weather at the last session this term

Photo: Samantha Saye

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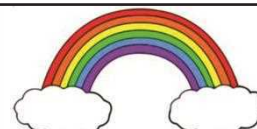
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- Nearest First Aid Units: Townland Hospital, Henley **01865 903755**, or West Berkshire Community Hospital, Thatcham **01635 273508**, or Abingdon Community Hospital **01865 903476**
- Goring & Woodcote Medical Practice: Monday-Friday 8am-6.30pm **01491 680686** Requests for appointments are triaged to direct patients to the correct help and should be made using the form available at www.goringwoodcotemedicalpractice.nhs.uk If you are unable to use the form, the practice can be contacted on the above number to support you.
- Nearest Casualty Department: Royal Berkshire Hospital, Reading **0118 322 7020**
- Emergency Dentist – call **111** for advice
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- Goring transport office – 10am-12noon Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, to arrange volunteer transport to local surgeries, dentists and hospitals **01491 873565**.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

David Slarks ggndiary@gmail.com

SOCIAL CLUB BOXING DAY FAMILY FUN AND MEGA RAFFLE!

Need an escape from the turkey leftovers? Bring the whole family down to the Goring Social Club for our annual Boxing Day Family Day! We'll be open from 12:00 noon on Thursday, 26 December. Enjoy a relaxed afternoon with fun and games for the children, plus a warm, welcoming atmosphere for the adults. The main event will be the drawing of our massive Christmas raffle. We have lots of fantastic prizes to win, including the star prize, a luxury Spa Day. Tickets are just £1 per strip and can be purchased from the bar in the run-up to the event and on the day. All proceeds go directly to our chosen charity for 2025, MNDA. Don't miss out on your chance to win big and enjoy some post-Christmas cheer with your neighbours.

SOCIAL CLUB NEW YEAR'S EVE DISCO

Get ready to ring in the New Year in style at the Goring Social Club. Join us for our spectacular New Year's Eve Disco on Tuesday 31 December, starting at 8 pm and going late. We'll have a DJ playing all your favourite hits, from party classics and disco floor-fillers to the latest chart-toppers. The bar will be fully stocked and the atmosphere will be electric ready to see in the New Year. Members and their guests welcome. Let's make it a night to remember!

Further afield

WITHYMEAD ON TOUR 2026

Withymead Nature Reserve is going on tour. We're running the Woodcote Community Coffee Shop 10am-12.30pm, on Saturday 24 January. We'll have our delicious signature cakes and bakes, tea and coffee for sale, plus second-hand books, merchandise, and a really great raffle too. It's in aid of our fundraising campaign to raise £115k to replace the last section of our old precarious wooden boardwalk and footbridge, with a new accessible boardwalk and step-free bridge so that everyone can enjoy the freedom of being outdoors. It will also connect to last year's new section to reinstate the continuous loop through the wetland reedbeds. The Coffee Shop is in the community centre next to the Library, on the Reading Road in Woodcote. Join us to find out why it matters, what your support will achieve, and the difference it will make, as well as enjoying some very good cake!

WALLINGFORD PHOTOGRAPHIC CLUB

Continuing the season into 2026, Wallingford Photographic Club (www.wallingfordphoto.club) has talks, presentations, competitions and practical sessions up until May. We meet on Thursdays from 7-0pm at Crowmarsh Pavilion, with a handful of sessions online during the season, to make the most of inviting speakers from far away. The new year brings a busy month, with an opening evening on the 8th sharing progress on our themed assignments (following on from the club talk in December focussing on black and white images). Then on 15th we have our first external competition of the programme- a second match-up against a photography club based in Spain (so an online-only session). The 22nd will be a club night where we collaborate to select images that will be entered into the upcoming 'Intimate Landscapes' competition. Followed by our second internal unthemed competition of the season on 29th.

WALLINGFORD AND DISTRICT ART CLUB

Join the friendly Wallingford and District Art Club on Tuesday 20 January at 7.30pm for a live demonstration as professional artist, Claire Cross, paints a beautiful watercolour scene using

salt. Rather than just adding texture, the salt will 'paint' a large part of the picture in an interesting way. The demo will be held at Centre 70 (off Goldsmiths Lane in Wallingford) and is free for club members or £10 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

FRESHWATER WATCH TRAINING

Freshwater Watch Training, Sat 17 January 2026, Goring Village Hall, 11am-1pm (Free). Book online at <https://tinyurl.com/yc7wpmfx> or email claire.robertson@thames21.org.uk

Do you care about the health of the River Thames? Do you have 30 minutes a month to spare? Join Thames21 as a Thames Water Watcher and become a citizen scientist helping to monitor river pollution. Volunteers test their local stretch of the Thames once a month for chemical and visual pollution, with results shared with local partners to help protect and restore our rivers. All equipment and training provided. This training session covers:

- River health and pollution basics – why citizen science helps
 - How to take Freshwater Watch samples and upload data
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- We're seeking volunteers for sites between Wallingford and Caversham. Run by Thames21 for the South Chilterns Catchment Partnership, funded by Mend the Gap.



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Funeral Partners

Tuesday 23 December

Chess Club. Children 4.45 – 5.45pm, Adults 5.45 – 7pm. Library. Drop-in.

Friday 26 December

• **Boxing Day Raffle.** 3pm, GSC.

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

news@genienews.org

Wednesday 31 December

New Year's Eve Disco. 8pm, GSC.

Saturday 3 January

• 5Aside chess. 10.30-11.30am, Library. Drop in.

Monday 5 January

Goring Mobile Post Office. 8-11am, Westholme stores, Wallingford Rd, Goring. Every Monday and Thursday.

• Goring and Streatley Bridge Club.

6.45pm, GVH. Held every Monday

Tuesday 6 January

• **Goring Carers Group.** 10.30-12noon, GSC.

• GLib Library Book Group. 5-6pm, Library. See library staff if interested

Wednesday 7 January

• **Goring Gap News.** Copy deadline for February events. News and articles of local interest to

goringgapnews@gmail.com

• **Crib Evening.** 7.30pm, GSC.

• Stay and Play. 10-11am Library. For under 5s and carers. 1st Wednesday of the month.

Thursday 8 January

Goring Mobile Post Office. 8-11am, Westholme stores, Wallingford Rd, Goring. Every Monday and Thursday.

• **Storytime.** 10.30-11am, GL.

Drop in. Every Thursday.

Friday 9 January

Bingo. 8pm, GSC.

Monday 12 January

• Genie News Copy Deadline. Genie is published twice a month. Email us:

news@genienews.org

Tuesday 13 January

• **Parkinsons Group.** 10.30-12noon, GSC.

• Lego club. 4.45-6pm, Library. Please book: [01865 815155](tel:01865815155).

Wednesday 14 January

• **Cleeve by Goring WI.** 7.30pm, SL. Sarah Summerville: *The History of Shaw House, Newbury*. Just come along on the night or contact Katrina Cooper, [01491 875334](tel:01491875334).

• **The Soundbar Open Mic,** The Miller of Mansfield. Sign up to play from 7.30pm. Music 8 – 10pm. Fancy playing? Come along or get in touch,

HelloSoundbar@gmail.com

Thursday 15 January

Pick a Flick. 10.30am-2pm, CR. *The Thursday Murder Club*. Four retirees spend their time solving cold case murders for fun, but their casual sleuthing

takes a thrilling turn when they find themselves with a real whodunit on their hands. Please contact Sarah Fraser [01491 871838](tel:01491871838) or Jenny Boyd [01491 872109](tel:01491872109) to book and to ask for transport if required. The cost is £5 per event, including a light lunch.

Friday 16 January

• **Bingo,** 8pm GSC

• **Macular Society Support Group**

2.30 – 4.15pm GVH. Meeting with afternoon tea. Contact: Rowena Buie

[01491 875103](tel:01491875103)

• **GREADIES** Library Book Group. 10-11am. See library staff if interested.

Monday 19 January

Goring Gap Local History Soc. 2.30pm,

GVH. Tim Healey: *A History of St Giles*

Fair, Oxford. Contact Janet Hurst,

goringgaphistory@gmail.com.

Tuesday 20 January

• **Goring Gap Probus Club.** 10.30am,

Golf Club. Jonathan Stamp: *The Lost Library of Herculaneum – Villa of the Papyri*. Potential members welcome -

contact ggpcsecretary@gmail.com

• **Social Scrabble Club.** 4.45-7pm, GL.

All welcome with refreshments.

Wednesday 21 January

Coffee Morning. 10.30 – 12noon, St

Andrew's South Stoke. The 3rd

Wednesday of every month.

Friday 23 January

Bingo. 8pm GSC.

Sunday 25 January

Quiz Night. 7pm, GSC.

Monday 26 January

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

news@genienews.org

Tuesday 27 January

Chess Club. Children, 4.45-5.45pm,

Adults 5.45-7pm, GL.

Wednesday 28 January

The Arts Society, Goring. 11am and 2pm GVH. *The DeBeers Diamond Cartel – Romancing the Stone*. Speaker: Laurie Wickwire. Learn how one company came to control the world's flow of diamonds into the marketplace for over a century. Refreshments available at 10.30am and 1.30pm. Guests are welcome to attend for £5 through prior booking email: info@theartsocietygoring.org.uk Details of all events and activities may be found at www.theartsocietygoring.org.uk.

Thursday 29 January

Goring Gap U3a. 10.30-12noon, GVH.

Speaker: Ian Keable: *The Art of Trickery: How Magicians are seen in Paintings*.

Friday 30 January

Bingo. 8pm, GSC.

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

The following abbreviations are used:

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

Support for a Goring – Wallingford Greenway

It's good to see parish and district councillors and our local MP, Freddie van Mierlo, supporting the need for what has been called a Goring - Wallingford Greenway. Cycling off-road between Goring and Wallingford is a challenge. Without a safe route cyclists and horse riders must brave the 50mph Wallingford Rd (B4009) or face a much longer detour via Ipsden.

Councillors have initiated discussions with landowners to explore whether one of the established walking routes between South Stoke and North Stoke could be enhanced with an alternative, cycle and house friendly path adjacent to the main Wallingford Road. The main stumbling block is the access through the edge of a field in South Stoke, owned by Christchurch College, and managed by their agents, Savills.

A Goring - Wallingford Greenway would be a major asset to Active Travel in South Oxfordshire:

The route has been identified as one of the strategic links in OCC's Strategic Active Travel Network (SATN).

It will link King Alfred's Way to the ancient Saxon burgh of Wallingford, founded by King Alfred. Together with KAW it follows the medieval Tudding Way from Crowmarsh to Caversham.

It will link Wallingford to the bike friendly, mainline GWR station at Goring.

It will provide safe traffic-free access to Wallingford (and Benson/Crowmarsh) for commuters, shoppers and students from Goring or places en-route.

It will provide an ideal quiet and relatively flat route for parents to take with young children, or for Bikeability-trained youngsters to take on their own. Teenagers would be able to take part-time jobs in Wallingford without relying on parents to ferry them by car.

In addition to the Strategic Active Travel Network report, this part of the Goring - Wallingford Greenway route was proposed as part of the Ridgeway Riding Route project in 2020 by Cycling UK. It would be a great asset to local communities. Residents in support of a car-free/low-traffic route between Goring and Wallingford should email their local MP (Freddie.vanmierlo.mp@parliament.uk) who is currently in the process of lobbying Christchurch College.

Cllr Robin Williamson

Chair, Travel & Transport Committee, Goring-on-Thames Parish Council



MP Freddie van Mierlo with local campaigners

Goring High Street Christmas trees

We hope you are enjoying this year's Goring High St Christmas trees. Now into their ninth year, it's been a real community effort getting them up there! Many thanks as always to the Goring Fire & Rescue Service for installing them; to James Hearn, local handyman, for checking and fixing the brackets; to Sarah our parish clerk for collecting them from Christmas Common; to Wendy Sproule and team for last-minute carrying of trees from Goring Parish Council office to Rectory Garden; and to my wife Alice for helping wrap them in lights, at the great cost of a thousand needles in hands.

Geoff Brown



Firefighters putting up the trees

Photo: Geoff Brown



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The King's Elm



Deputy Lieutenant Ms Lynda Atkins plants the Elm with Ron Bridle looking on

Photo: Chris Rickards

Scouts Remembrance Parade



2nd Goring & Streatley Scout troop paraded over the bridge on Remembrance Day

Photo: Jim Greayer

Christmas I-Spy around Goring shops - find the decorations



Christmas Inspiration



The team at Inspiration on the Christmas shopping evening