

# PROJECTS

## Goring Village Centre



Public Toilet area  
Before and After



Goring Parish Council Offices  
Before and After



Shopping Arcade  
Before and After



# PROJECTS



**Winter and Spring**



**BT site**

# PROJECTS

## BT Site



Residents and visitors alike use the public car park in the centre of Goring. To reach the High Street, they walk down a path past the public toilets, with the well-tended allotments on one side and the BT exchange on the other. The grounds of the BT site were a tangled mess of weeds and coarse grass, occasionally cut by the maintenance team. The wire fence was dilapidated and covered in ivy and saplings.

Goring-on-Thames in Bloom persuaded BT to improve the area and they planted a wild flower meadow and eventually put in a new fence. After a year BT announced they had no funds to maintain the meadow and handed the management challenge to the Bloom group.



Other projects to enhance the appearance of the site are in progress, with shrubs planted at either end of the meadow to screen off the dustbins in a nearby yard and overgrown vegetation at the side of the building. Each year giant sunflowers are grown along the fence by the entrance.



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## Goring Car Park

The Airey family – Sarah, Paul, Robert and Lucy – began by tending the bed by the loos. Getting the bug for public gardening, they decided to brighten up the grass border between the car park and the allotments. They planted lavender, which soon bushed up into a fragrant and pollinator-friendly hedge. South Oxfordshire District Council put in bollards to stop cars driving on to the border when parking.



Before (above) and in summer 2021 (right)

## Glebe Ride

The corner of Glebe Ride with Cleve Road was just rough grass with a hawthorn tree growing in the middle. The Council occasionally cut the grass. Local residents, Terry and Karin Walker decided to give the area a makeover. They dug out all the ground elder along the Edwardian brick wall and reseeded bare patches of grass. Goring-on-Thames in Bloom planted a rowan tree to balance the hawthorn and *Hydrangea seamannii* to clothe the wall. Spring bulbs were put in along the border. A pair of hanging baskets has also been installed on the lamp-post.



# PROJECTS

## Gardiner Recreation Ground

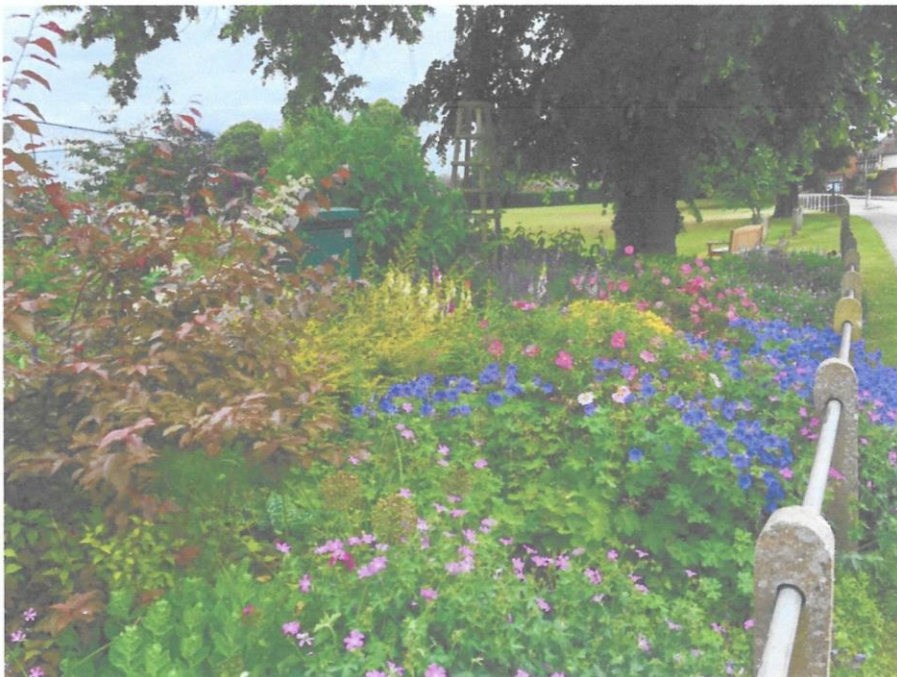
This corner of the cricket field, next to an electricity sub-station and shaded by a large lime tree, was full of overgrown shrubs. It was used as a dump for rubbish and grass cuttings. Goring-on-Thames in Bloom volunteers cleared away the junk and weeds and persuaded the council to remove the bushes. The area was planted up with shrubs, sustainable perennials and spring bulbs. Within a short time it was a riot of colour, much admired by passers-by. A local resident installed a seat in memory of her late husband, so that people could enjoy sitting by the flower bed to watch the cricket.



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Year round colour from all aspects



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## Goring & Streatley Station: Platform 4



Electrification of the line between London and Bristol brought change to our station. The Victorian railway bridge was removed and replaced with a modern edifice; other old buildings were knocked down. Ugly gantries were constructed to carry the current. By 2017 the lovely old country station looked urban. Goring-on-Thames in Bloom decided to step in and soften the hard landscape by creating a sustainable garden from the large, bare and weed infested bank left by the contractors on platform 4.

There was no soil on the bank, only hard-core and concrete. The area had to be converted into a giant raised bed. It took many months of consultation and complex form-filling before Network Rail gave permission for work to begin. In July 2017 a team of volunteers built the bed with old railway sleepers and it was filled with topsoil. Then it was planted up with sustainable, low maintenance shrubs and perennials. In the autumn bulbs were put in. Since then the bed has been weeded and watered regularly and mulched with compost and manure. GWR have installed an outside tap as watering was a problem, particularly in 2018.



*Making the bed July 2017*



*One year later*

*July 2018*



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*Getting manure for the bank*



*Daffodils & maintenance*



*Attractive by night and day*



*Wearing our new new official GWR pink vests 2022*



# PROJECTS

## Goring & Streatley Station: The bank by platform 1



A long, narrow bank by the footpath from Station Road to the platforms was left by the contractors in a sorry state. The wooden fence was covered in ivy, the area was infested by brambles and weeds and the old posts marking the boundary had been left in situ. Station contractors Hochtief kindly removed these concrete posts. Clearing the detritus, rubble and overgrowth was a filthy job. It entailed many trips to the Council tip. Underneath there was only a thin layer of bark on a thick felt membrane. Once again, there was no topsoil for planting. The answer was to remove some of the membrane and add as much compost as the retaining wall would allow.



This turned out to be 50 x 40 litre bags! Planting was problematic – what would grow in a thin layer of soil in an exposed position, shaded for part of the day and in some places under mature trees? And then how would the plants be watered until established? Little deters Goring-on-Thames in Bloom. Suitable ground cover plants were grown and a nearby householder allowed us to use his outside tap. Most of the plants have taken and the bank looks good all year round.

**Dwarf daffodils were planted for spring colour**  
**Note the ugly concrete posts**



### Plants

*Campanula muralis*  
*Epimedium perralchicum*  
*Erigeron karvinskianus*  
*Geranium macrorrhizum*  
*Hypericum calycinum*

**After planting**  
**Looking south**

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## Goring & Streatley Station: Platforms 2 & 3

The trains introduced after electrification of the line have more carriages than the old units. The platforms at local stations are shorter than the trains, so they all had to be lengthened. Hochtief were given the contract and were busy at Goring & Streatley station for two years. The company was approached by Bloom to see if it could do any work for us as part of their community outreach programme. After discussion, they agreed to supply and install railway sleepers to make some new large raised beds to improve the appearance of the bare areas on platforms 2 & 3. We didn't realise that they would actually make the beds for us, fill them with soil and buy the plants! Hochtief left Goring in June and their parting gift was 7 beautifully constructed beds.

*Before ...*



*Making the troughs on site*



*The plants*

*Getting there!  
Four more  
troughs to go*



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## The Lock

The Lock attracts many visitors arriving by boat or on land. It is owned by the Environment Agency, along with the adjacent lock green which is a popular spot for picnics. It is also the site of local events, such as the WI Lock teas each August, accompanied by the Concert Band, and the Mikron Theatre Company's annual performance. The resident lock-keeper is a keen gardener and since coming a few years ago has renovated the long borders either side of the lock basin, which had got very overgrown. His work is on-going. He is a busy man as he also has to mow the lock green and keep that tidy, besides his core job of letting boats through the lock. Goring in Bloom helps out with the provision of plants and some weeding. We also give him two hanging baskets each year to decorate his office.



In 2018 we installed an old boat on the lockside and planted it up with a mixture of perennials and bedding plants. The lock-keeper kindly kept an eye on this, watering and deadheading the plants.

Alas the boat deteriorated during the pandemic and has been removed. We are now fundraising to replace it with large containers.

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## Hanging baskets

For 16 years 48 hanging baskets were designed, planted and maintained by the Bloom group on the bridge and High Street.

*Planning in January*



*Planting in early May*



*Nurturing in the greenhouse*



*Baskets up at the end of May*



to supply our colourful



*Volunteer watering crew with the bowser*

In 2023 the reluctant decision was taken to hand over provision of the hanging baskets to Goring on Thames Parish Council, which uses the services of a commercial company street decorations.

# PROJECTS



**Around the village**



# PROJECTS



**Businesses**

