# Goring & Streatley station plaque celebrates volunteers’ push for greener, more accessible travel



Great Western Railway (GWR) has recently honoured volunteers from Goring-on-Thames in Bloom and the Mobility Issues Group for Goring and Streatley (MIGGS) for their dedicated efforts in enhancing both the environment and accessibility at Goring & Streatley railway station. A plaque was unveiled to commemorate their contributions in transforming the station's platform and improving facilities for disabled and elderly passengers.

Since 2017, Goring-on-Thames in Bloom has worked on platform 4 at the station, creating a sustainable habitat that supports local wildlife while beautifying the area. The community group also maintains several other green spaces around the village, including the car park, the lock area, and Gardiner Recreation Ground. Their dedication aligns with their wider mission of fostering environmental stewardship and civic pride, as demonstrated by their recognition with a Gold Award in the Small Town category of the Royal Horticultural Society Britain in Bloom Competition for 2024.

Parallel to these environmental efforts, MIGGS has been a strong advocate for the accessibility needs of disabled and elderly people since its establishment in 2008. Their campaigning was instrumental in the introduction of step-free access and customer assistance services at the station, making it more inclusive. This advocacy culminated in the recent unveiling of a £7,000 orientation plaque at Goring & Streatley station, which highlights accessible routes from the station into the surrounding countryside. The plaque project received funding through several sources including Mend the Gap, a programme focused on improving areas affected by the Great Western Railway electrification, South Oxfordshire District Council’s grants, and DEFRA’s Access for All fund.

John Boler, MIGGS chairman, expressed his gratitude to GWR for recognising the group’s work and emphasised the ongoing commitment of the railway to enhance accessibility. He described the improvements as a true team effort aimed at making travel and countryside enjoyment more accessible to all. The plaque unveiling ceremony also featured members of MIGGS and local campaigners who rely on mobility scooters, further underscoring the importance of promoting inclusive access.

Goring & Streatley railway station itself, situated on the Great Western Main Line between London Paddington and Reading, has seen significant upgrades in recent years, including the installation of a new footbridge with lifts. These enhancements were driven by community campaigns like those led by MIGGS, and have considerably improved the station’s usability for passengers with mobility impairments.

Together, the environmental and accessibility initiatives at Goring & Streatley demonstrate a collaborative model where community action, supported by transport authorities and local government, can create spaces that are both welcoming and sustainable. Volunteers like Stephanie and Ron Bridle and Janet Hurst from Goring-on-Thames in Bloom, alongside accessibility advocates such as John Boler from MIGGS, exemplify how dedicated local efforts can lead to lasting improvements benefiting residents and visitors alike.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.oxfordmail.co.uk/news/25345831.goring-streatley-station-unveils-plaque-volunteers/?ref=rss), [[4]](https://www.readingchronicle.co.uk/news/24438452.new-plaque-berkshire-village-station-help-disabled-people/), [[5]](https://www.newburytoday.co.uk/news/new-railway-station-plaque-improves-countryside-accessibilit-9372809/)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.oxfordmail.co.uk/news/25345831.goring-streatley-station-unveils-plaque-volunteers/?ref=rss), [[2]](https://www.goringgapinbloom.org.uk/)
* Paragraph 3 – [[1]](https://www.oxfordmail.co.uk/news/25345831.goring-streatley-station-unveils-plaque-volunteers/?ref=rss), [[4]](https://www.readingchronicle.co.uk/news/24438452.new-plaque-berkshire-village-station-help-disabled-people/), [[5]](https://www.newburytoday.co.uk/news/new-railway-station-plaque-improves-countryside-accessibilit-9372809/)
* Paragraph 4 – [[1]](https://www.oxfordmail.co.uk/news/25345831.goring-streatley-station-unveils-plaque-volunteers/?ref=rss), [[4]](https://www.readingchronicle.co.uk/news/24438452.new-plaque-berkshire-village-station-help-disabled-people/), [[5]](https://www.newburytoday.co.uk/news/new-railway-station-plaque-improves-countryside-accessibilit-9372809/), [[6]](https://www.chilterns.org.uk/news/improving-accessibility-with-mend-the-gap/)
* Paragraph 5 – [[1]](https://www.oxfordmail.co.uk/news/25345831.goring-streatley-station-unveils-plaque-volunteers/?ref=rss), [[7]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Goring_%26_Streatley_railway_station)
* Paragraph 6 – [[1]](https://www.oxfordmail.co.uk/news/25345831.goring-streatley-station-unveils-plaque-volunteers/?ref=rss), [[2]](https://www.goringgapinbloom.org.uk/), [[4]](https://www.readingchronicle.co.uk/news/24438452.new-plaque-berkshire-village-station-help-disabled-people/), [[7]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Goring_%26_Streatley_railway_station)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.oxfordmail.co.uk/news/25345831.goring-streatley-station-unveils-plaque-volunteers/?ref=rss> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.goringgapinbloom.org.uk/> - Goring-on-Thames in Bloom is a community group dedicated to enhancing the village's appearance through horticultural projects. They received a Gold Award in the Small Town category of the Thames & Chilterns Region of the Royal Horticultural Society Britain in Bloom Competition 2024. Their initiatives include maintaining floral displays, environmental projects, and community events, all aimed at fostering civic pride and environmental stewardship within the village.
3. <https://www.chilterns.org.uk/news/improving-accessibility-with-mend-the-gap/> - Mend the Gap is a programme enhancing areas of the Chilterns and North Wessex Downs National Landscapes affected by the electrification of the Great Western Railway. It is a joint initiative between the two National Landscapes and the Railway Action Group. The programme focuses on improving accessibility and environmental quality in these regions, benefiting both residents and visitors.
4. <https://www.readingchronicle.co.uk/news/24438452.new-plaque-berkshire-village-station-help-disabled-people/> - A new £7,000 orientation plaque was unveiled at Goring & Streatley Station to highlight accessible routes for people of all abilities to enjoy the countryside. The plaque was the brainchild of the Mobility Issues Group for Goring and Streatley (MIGGS), funded by Mend the Gap, the South Oxfordshire District Council’s councillor grant scheme, and the DEFRA Access for All fund. MIGGS chairman John Boler expressed gratitude to GWR for the acknowledgment represented by this plaque, showcasing their appreciation of the work done and GWR's ongoing commitment to making the railway more accessible for all.
5. <https://www.newburytoday.co.uk/news/new-railway-station-plaque-improves-countryside-accessibilit-9372809/> - A new £7,000 orientation plaque was unveiled at Goring & Streatley Station to improve countryside access for disabled people. The plaque highlights various available routes from the station for everyone to access the surrounding countryside. The unveiling ceremony was attended by MIGGS chairman John Boler, who emphasized the station's accessibility and the importance of promoting the Thames Valley as a destination in its own right. The plaque was jointly unveiled by Frank Tomlinson, a member of MIGGS, and Margaret Pawson, a campaigner for better countryside access and a lead member of the disabled access group in the Mid and West Berks Local Access Forum. Both use mobility scooters.
6. <https://www.chilterns.org.uk/news/improving-accessibility-with-mend-the-gap/> - Mend the Gap is a programme enhancing areas of the Chilterns and North Wessex Downs National Landscapes affected by the electrification of the Great Western Railway. It is a joint initiative between the two National Landscapes and the Railway Action Group. The programme focuses on improving accessibility and environmental quality in these regions, benefiting both residents and visitors.
7. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Goring_%26_Streatley_railway_station> - Goring & Streatley railway station is located on the Great Western Main Line, serving the twin villages of Goring-on-Thames in Oxfordshire and Streatley in Berkshire. The station is managed by Great Western Railway and offers services between London Paddington, Reading, and Didcot. The station underwent significant upgrades, including the installation of a new footbridge with lifts, following a strong local campaign led by the Mobility Issues Group for Goring and Streatley (MIGGS). These improvements have enhanced accessibility for all passengers, including those with mobility impairments.