

GRETTON LIFE

AUTUMN / WINTER

2022/23



PUBLISHED ON BEHALF OF GRETTON PARISH COUNCIL

From the Chair of the Parish Council

Hello everyone,

Autumn is now upon us and the changing season has made me reflect on how our lives have changed since the last edition of this publication. As a country we have gone through a major transition with the sad passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and the proclamation of our new King. I was pleased to see that as a community we marked this transition following our historic traditions. The St. James' bellringers tolled for the Queen – an emotional and moving moment – and rang for the proclamation; the Flag Master raised and lowered the flag on the village green; the Village Hall facilitated the proclamation of the new King; we laid flowers at the war memorial; the churches led prayers and gave emotional support to those who required it; the Book of Condolence was made available for those who wished to sign it either on-line or in the church; and the Silver Band played the Last Post on the eve of the funeral. These events reminded me that prior to the invention of radio, television and the internet, a village like ours would have only known of the passing of a monarch through these activities. By participating in these events, we have added another link in the chain of Gretton's history. The Parish Council would like to thank everyone who facilitated or participated in the events that marked this moment in history.



I'd like us all to consider safety as we move around the village. We are all aware of the challenges around parking but it is imperative that where there are pavements and paths, we all do our bit to make them safe and passable for pedestrians, pushchairs, and wheelchair users. If you do have to park your vehicle on the pavement, please check that you have left enough room for people to continue to use it and not have to walk out into the road. Likewise, if you have foliage, bushes, hedges or trees that reach across a pavement or road, please keep them cut back so that people can use them safely. Please check on your property deeds or with the Parish Council as you might be responsible for the greenery outside of the boundary of your property. The Parish Council pays for cutting services for all non-household areas, so the chances are that if the greenery is not being cut back, then the householder is responsible. Let's help make Gretton a safe place to move around.

The Parish Council members are sad to be losing our current clerk, Jackie. Throughout her tenure she has guided the Parish Council members and been very supportive to us all, particularly the newer councillors, offering words of wisdom and ensuring we adhere to the regulatory governance required of us. Jackie's organisation and management has enabled us to work efficiently and effectively during unprecedented periods of COVID lockdown and the Queen's funeral. We really couldn't have done it without her. Jackie, from all of us we would like to say a big THANK YOU. We wish you and Kevin the best of luck in your next adventure.

We are delighted to announce that Sara Golding will be taking over as our new Clerk. This is something completely new to Sara and Jackie will be training her during the coming weeks. Good luck Sara, we are all looking forward to having you on board and working with you in the future.

I hope you enjoy this edition of our publication. Please do take a look at our Parish Council website for additional information: www.grettonparishcouncil.co.uk. Keep safe and well.

Jacki Lilley
Chair, Gretton Parish Council

From the Clerk to the Parish Council

This is my last time writing an entry for Gretton Life since my decision to step down as Clerk to the Parish Council.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my time as Clerk, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Councillors for their support. I wish them well for the future.

Gretton Parish Council meets on the second Monday of each month, at 7.30 pm in the Meeting Room at the Village Hall. Members of the public are welcome to attend meetings and can address the Council during the Open Forum item on the meeting agenda.

The role of the Parish Council is to represent the interests of the whole community, so if you have any questions or concerns about anything affecting the Parish, please do not hesitate to contact us either through the Parish Council website, email clerkgpc@btinternet.com or telephone 07816 974828.

There will be a handover of responsibility to the new Clerk, Sara Golding, during the next month, and Sara has written a little about herself below.

With best wishes to you all.

Jackie Clark

From the *new* Clerk to the Parish Council

“My grandparents moved to the village in 1980, and at one time we had five generations of our family living here! Gretton has always been home for me. I love the history of the village, its sense of community spirit and how much is always going for people of all ages and interests. My life has always been intrinsically linked with the village, including attending the primary school, my wedding at St James’ and my son’s baptism there. I am currently enjoying my voluntary role as a Gretton Beavers’ leader, and am excited to see this new group grow and thrive.

I am looking forward to working as Clerk to Gretton Parish Council, and to developing my connection with the village in new and interesting ways.”

Sara Golding

From the Editor

I hope you enjoy this edition of the newsletter. Thank you to all our contributors – there is a lot to look forward to in the village over the coming months.

If you would like to submit an article for the next edition please do get in touch. As the newsletter is a Parish Council publication, we can only include information from not-for-profit, community organizations. The next copy will be the Spring 2023 edition, covering March to June and the deadline for submitting articles is Monday 13 February.

We print 700 copies of Gretton Life so we have changed to recycled paper to slightly reduce our environmental impact.

As I write it’s the middle of October – but Happy Christmas anyway!

Yvette Redding, yvette@reddingfamily.net

Gretton Remembers

Remembrance Sunday 13th November

At 11.00am there is a service and wreath-laying ceremony at the USAAF Memorial on the Harringworth to Laxton Road with military vehicles attending.

At 2.45pm a parade will leave from the Recreation Ground led by Gretton Silver Band to St James Church for a service of Remembrance at 3.00pm.

Afterwards wreaths will be laid at the War Memorial.

Door to door poppy sales will be made in Gretton and Harringworth.

I am extremely grateful to Dave Miller our Honorary Poppy Appeal Organiser for his dedication and hard work to ensure Remembrance traditions are maintained locally.



*“Live on – to the
memory of the
fallen and the
future of the living”*

RBL motto

The Royal British Legion is the nation’s biggest armed forces charity providing care and support to all members of the forces past and present and their families.

Finally, thank you to Fiona and Ami Chapman for organising the "Gretton Poppies" - crocheters and knitters who will be putting on another moving display by the War Memorial with additional displays at the Baptist Chapel at St James Church this year.

*Shirley Fursdon,
Gretton and District Royal British Legion Holding Branch.*

2022 Royal British Legion Report

Gretton, Harringworth & Laxton District

On the 8th September, came the sad news: our beloved Sovereign and Patron of the Royal British Legion, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II had passed away, aged 96, at Balmoral. We at the RBL are all deeply saddened. HM The Queen was our Patron for 70 years, and we had the privilege of her unwavering support throughout her reign. She will be sorely missed.



For this year’s Poppy Appeal, we held an 80’s style race night on the 21st October (remembering 40 years since the Falkland conflict) at Gretton Sports & Social Club. Thanks to the efforts of the committee, staff and lots of support from other local businesses, we managed to put on a great event that a fabulous £2011.45. Thank you so much to everyone who came and made it the amazing night it was and for donating so generously!

We are currently in the middle of the official period of remembrance which started on Saturday 29th October and runs until Remembrance Sunday 13th November. Door to door poppy sales continue around the village and in all our local pubs and shops.

In these tough economic times, I’d like to thank everyone for their overwhelming, continued support of the RBL in Gretton, Harringworth and Laxton. Your efforts will not go in vain and will go a long way to supporting military personnel, past and present, who need our help.

If you have any questions or queries regarding the work of the Royal British Legion, or the period of remembrance, do not hesitate to get in touch with me via email or find me on social media.

Thank you!

*Dave Miller, Honorary Appeal Organiser for Gretton, Harringworth & Laxton District
Email: dsm1884@gmail.com*



GRETTON AND DISTRICT
ROYAL BRITISH LEGION
HOLDING BRANCH



**REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE
SUNDAY 13TH NOVEMBER**

11.00AM USAAF SPANHOE AIRFIELD MEMORIAL
WITH MILITARY VEHICLE DISPLAY.

2.45PM PARADE WILL DEPART FROM GRETTON
RECREATION GROUND, LED BY GRETTON SILVER
BAND FOR THE SERVICE AT ST. JAMES CHURCH AT 3PM.

AT THE GOING DOWN
OF THE SUN,
AND IN THE MORNING

WE WILL
REMEMBER THEM

A COLLECTION WILL BE MADE
AT BOTH SERVICES,
WITH ALL PROCEEDS GOING TO THE



ROYAL BRITISH LEGION
POPPY APPEAL
THANK YOU!

Calling all knitters and crocheters!

CAN YOU KNIT OR CROCHET FLOWERS?

..... OR PERHAPS YOU'D LIKE TO LEARN??



We have had amazing support and are grateful to all the people who have contributed their time and skills for the Gretton Poppies displays.

We now have another project that we would like help with and that is a knitted / crochet flower display at St James Flower Festival next June. To that end the Facebook page 'Gretton Poppies' will be updated and there will be patterns and YouTube links available for ideas. Karen Lloyd is now running a Crochet Club on Tuesday nights for all abilities at the Baptist Church - £3 a week including a hot drink and biscuit - and there is help to learn to crochet and swapping of ideas and people are also working on their own projects.

To make the display eye catching we will need lots of flowers in all colours, shapes and sizes so if you would be willing to help it would be a nice activity on the longer nights. I am happy to take collections as and when - Julie has been happy to accept at the shop or you can drop to my doorstep - 19 Fulwell Avenue. If you do leave a contribution, please pop your name on them so we know who to thank on the display.

Fiona Chapman

Chirpy Chicks Pre-school

It has been a great start to the new academic year at Chirpy Chicks Pre – School. It has been lovely to welcome back so many children and welcome many new families to our setting. The children have all settled in beautifully and are busy exploring their interests and the activities that we have on offer, both indoors and outdoors. The children have formed some lovely relationships with each other and have been busy creating some wonderful collaborative artwork, which we have displayed proudly in Chirpy Chicks.

All the children have shown a keen interest in the autumn season and have enjoyed bringing in autumnal treasures that they have found with their families to share with their friends.

We have enjoyed conker paint rolling, leaf printing and sorting and hammering golf tees into pumpkins. The children have enjoyed learning all about wheat and corn maize from Farmer Austin's farm and are looking forward to grinding the grains to make bread in coming weeks. Our allotment has been full of activity with mini-beast and insect hunts. We have also planted some winter pansies and bulbs; which hopefully will grow in the spring.

Chirpy Chicks Pre -School is an outstanding (Ofsted 2022) not-for-profit, community-based pre-school for children aged 2 to 4 years of age. If you are looking for a setting for your child which has the children at the center of everything it does, and is led by highly qualified early years educators, who enjoy being part of a community, then please do contact us on 01536 771711 or email samantha@chirpy-chicks.co.uk and our fully qualified Early Years Teacher will be happy to show you around. Alternatively, please feel free to follow us on our Facebook or Instagram page to see what we have been up to.

Gretton Primary School

It's been all change at Gretton Primary School with the departure of both Mrs MacDonald and Mrs Sanders from the school in July. Mrs MacDonald has retired from headship but not retired completely – she has taken up a role leading the Brooke Weston Trust Primary Training Hub so she will still be involved with Gretton in terms of the training and development of staff at the school. Mrs Sanders has taken up the role of Deputy Head at Oakley Vale Primary School which is also in the Brooke Weston Trust. Mrs MacDonald and Mrs Sanders both made a fantastic contribution to the school and left it in a brilliant position for the incoming leaders.



Julia Dickinson has taken on the headship of the school, having moved over from Beanfield Primary School in Corby and Sarah Block has been promoted to the role of Deputy Head. They are both working hard to continue the hard work of their predecessors and have had a very positive start to the school year with many events both at the school and in the local community having taken place or already planned.

The school continues to grow and develop and the window has already opened for applications for the September 2023 Reception cohort. Please take a look at the school's website www.grettonprimary.org for the dates and times of our open mornings if you would like to come and have a look around the school in preparation to make your Reception application. The school is keen to maintain its role within the community and the leaders are working hard with the Parish Council to address parking issues around the school. They visited St James Church for their Harvest Festival on Thursday 20th October and made several donations of food parcels to residents in the village from the school collection. If you would like to get involved with school life, they are always on the look-out for volunteers to go in and read with children. Please contact the school office on 01536 770366 to find out more.

Julia Dickinson, Headteacher.

Lydia's Coffee Shop

There is always a lovely warm welcome in our village café! We offer top quality coffee, lunches and delicious home-baked cakes at affordable prices. There is even free wi-fi!

Lydia's is a not-for-profit café, run mainly by volunteers. If you'd like to get involved, please come and speak to one of our duty managers. We are open from 10-4 Monday to Saturday and food is served until 3pm.

We also host the Post Office on Tuesdays 10am-1pm.



Looking Back ...

Gretton Water Mill

The Domesday Book of 1086 records Gretton as having a mill. This picture was taken many centuries later in the 1930s. It was about this time that it ceased to work. The buildings were demolished in the 1960s. It was a corn mill, being used by the local farmers to mill their flour. In the late nineteenth century, the Gray family were millers and they also ran the Blue Bell public house.

Elisabeth Jordan,

Gretton Local History Society



Gretton Christmas Fête

The village Christmas fête on Sunday 11 December promises lots of stalls selling festive wares. It is being organized by Hannah Maguire; you can contact her via email on hannahmaguire93@gmail.com. Come and support local businesses!



Are you an energy super-saver?

How much do you know about your energy bills? Answer these six multiple choice quiz questions then turn the page upside down for the answers. Local energy consultant, Paul Redding offers some interesting insights and top tips to help cut your bills and save money!

1. How much have electricity prices risen since September 2021?
a) 29% b) 59% c) 79%
2. Boiling a full kettle for a single cup of tea costs how much?
a) 1p b) 3p c) 6p
3. Turning down the thermostat by 1°C would save the average 3 bed semi how much per year?
a) £80 b) £120 c) £180
4. Having a 2-minute electric shower a day instead of a 10-minute shower would save how much over 12 months?
a) £150 b) £100 c) £50
5. Replacing 4 halogen spotlights with LED equivalents would save how much if used for 4 hours a day?
a) £12 per year b) £22 per year c) £32 per year
6. How much does it cost to use a tumble drier for an hour?
a) 10p b) 30p c) 50p

Answers:

1. (c) The electricity price cap has risen by 79% since September 2021 and now is at 34p/kWh until April 2023. This is the maximum price per unit you will pay if you pay by direct debit or pre-payment meter (your supplier may charge you less).
Top tip: read your meters at least weekly to keep track of costs. Ask your energy supplier for a smart meter which will come with a home energy monitor to show you instantly how much you are using.

2. (c) 6p – a full kettle typically has 1.7 litres yet a cup of tea needs only 0.25-0.3 litres
Top tip: fill your kettle from the cup you are going to use rather than from the tap. Over a year this could save you £50-£60

3. (b) £120 – a typical 3 bedroom house in the UK uses 12000kWh per year and turning down the thermostat saves around 10%.
Top tip: turn down the thermostat on the boiler too and check the time settings to make sure your heating is only coming on when you need it. Keeping doors shut and checking for draughts will also help keep the heat where you need it.

4. (a) £150 – an electric shower costs 50p for 10 minutes but only 10p for 2 minutes
Top Tip: put a 2-minute egg timer in the bathroom and see if you can shower before it runs out

5. (b) £22 – you can replace a 50W halogen light with a 5W LED light. They also last longer
Top tip: check compatibility with your fitting and any dimming system installed. If in doubt consult an electrician.

6. (c) 50p – a tumble drier typically uses 1.5kW, more if it is a condensing model
Top tip: use a line, radiator or indoor airer if you can for at least part of the time

For more energy-saving advice try the following websites:
www.citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer/energy/energy-supply/ : Provides free and independent energy advice
www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/energy-at-home/ : Advice on saving money through energy-saving tips
and home improvements
www.northnants.gov.uk/cost-living : advice and support on cost of living issues.
North Northamptonshire Council

Baptist Church

After years of planning and work being done on the chapel, we are now almost there. At this moment builders are making the balcony a more comfortable place to sit. We are very grateful to everyone who has contributed in different ways over the years, to updating the chapel.

We recently held the autumn fayre which was well attended and there was a very friendly and warm atmosphere all afternoon.

We are now looking forward to Christmas. Our carol service will be on Sunday 18th December at 6pm and the silver band will be there to help with some of the carols. Christmas Day service will be at 10.15am and will be a family friendly service.

Our weekly services are as follows:

- Morning worship is at 10.15 am.
- All age service is on the second Sunday in the month.
- Communion is served on the 4th Sunday in the month.
- Groups for children and young people are held each week.

Other activities include a prayer meeting in the chapel each Sunday evening at 6pm. There are also prayer meetings and Bible studies during the week.

If anyone would like to attend any of our meetings, they are always very welcome. If you have not been to church for many years but feel drawn to coming now, we would love to see you.

We are a growing church who wants to serve God and our community. If anyone is in need of help at any time, we will always be willing to do what we can.

Rev Peter Lloyd, 01536 772155



St James' Church

As the nights draw in and the colder weather makes it harder to get out and about, this is a time when people often find life tough going. This year the economic uncertainty and rising costs will only add to the sense of despair for some of us. In difficult times we need to be supported and encouraged. At St James we aim to be a place of refuge for those who are hurting - whether you need someone to talk to, practical help, or someone to pray for you, please get in touch. Ultimately, we know that there is One to whom we can always turn as the Psalmist reminds us: *"In my distress I cried to the Lord, and he heard me."* (Psalm 120v1)



On Wednesday 24th November at 7.30pm we will be hosting 'A Night to Remember' at St James' Church. This is an opportunity for all who want to mark the death of a loved one by way of a short church service. There will be an opportunity to sing some reflective hymns, light a candle, pray and listen to some words of hope. Please do come if this may be helpful for you.

We're very aware that this winter will be difficult for many people. Corby Foodbank are anticipating an increase in demand and if you're in a position to be able to help, they would be very grateful for donations of non-perishable items (for more details check their website www.corby.foodbank.org.uk). St James' is a collection point for Corby Foodbank - leave items under the table near the entrance of the church and our volunteers will deliver the donations to the Foodbank for you.

If you have any questions about faith or would like to talk to me or the Church Warden, Alan Wheeler, you are always welcome to visit St James, you can catch me at most of the services below and you can always call 07421 301300 or [email stjamesgretton@gmail.com](mailto:stjamesgretton@gmail.com) and one of us will get back to you.

Regular Services

Every Sunday 9am

1st Sunday Worship for all ages

2nd Sunday Holy Communion with choir

3rd Sunday Holy Communion

4th Sunday Holy Communion with choir

Every Wednesday 10am

Holy Communion

Every 3rd Sunday 6pm

Evensong

Please note there will be no 9am service on Remembrance Sunday.

Christmas Services

Christingle Service, Sunday, 4th December at 9am.

A service for all ages as we're reminded about Jesus the Light of the world and get ourselves ready for Christmas.

Carols by Candlelight, Wednesday, 21st December at 7pm.

A traditional service of carols and lessons in the beautiful setting of St James - followed by mulled wine and mince pies.

Carols around the Crib, Saturday 24th December, 4pm.

An interactive service for everyone - carols, readings, and huge fun guaranteed.

Midnight Communion, Saturday 24th December, 11pm

A traditional service of Holy Communion as we welcome Christmas in.

Christmas Morning, Sunday 25th December, 10am at St John's Church, Corby

A family service celebrating Holy Communion on Christmas Day.

Forget Me Not Cafe - 1st Friday of Each Month 11am-midday

Forget Me Not Cafe - some time to be for an hour, share in tea, coffee, cake, and a chat. This time is especially for people who live alone or with someone who experiences memory difficulties. You are welcome to come and light a candle, read or write a prayer or pray.

Rev'd Paul Frost,

Rector of St John's Church, Corby and St James' Church, Gretton

Traffic Committee Update

Gretton is a lovely village and a great place to live. As with any other village, there are things that can be done to improve the quality of life and make it a safer place. The traffic committee was set up by the parish council to look at concerns raised by parishioners. We have been working on an evidenced based approach to address these issues.

Thank you to those who responded to the Village Traffic Survey. Apologies for the delay in publishing the data, however we have been working on proposals to address the concerns raised and will be presenting them at the Parish Council Meeting with a follow up 'Open Afternoon' at the village hall in the near future.

Some of the initial findings from the survey are as follows:

- 89% of respondents support a 20mph speed limit in the village
- 54% of respondents reported an accident or near miss
- 53% of respondents did not feel safe at times moving around the village. (This is related to issues below.)

The junctions that reported the most problems included:

- Kirby Rd/Corby Rd/High St
- Caistor Rd (both ends)
- School Rd (both ends).

The roads that reported the most problems included:

- High St (Corby Rd end)
- Kirby Rd,
- Corby Rd
- Station Rd
- School Rd.

The main issues reported in the survey were:

- Speed
- Parking
- Parking on the footpath
- Congestion
- Restricted view.

This is a small part of the data provided and there are many comments and views expressed with a good number of solutions offered. We are working these into a proposal for the village as a whole.

On a further note, '20's Plenty' Campaign Boards are now up at the village boundaries and we have smaller stickers to give out. The speed indicator board has been in place on the Corby Road for some time now and indications show that this has had an effect on slowing traffic coming into the village, however vehicles leaving the village are still speeding up well before they reach the national limit sign. If you are travelling out of the village, please wait until you have passed this sign before accelerating. The current 30mph limit is enforceable up to the sign. A Community Safety Watch is to be set up. This will allow volunteers to monitor the speed of vehicles in the village. This runs under the direction of Northants Police and operates in a number of villages around us. (More information to follow.)



Steven Gray

Bus Survey

Gretton Parish Council are undertaking a survey to gather your views about the bus service currently provided to inform our decision-making about how we continue to support public transport provision for the village in future.

Multiple responses will be accepted per household as we are keen to understand the range of differing needs. To complete online please visit grettonparishcouncil.co.uk/bustimetables or scan the QR code to complete via your mobile.

Paper copies will be made available via the village pubs, Lydia's and the shop. The survey will close on Friday 9th December
Fraser Wright



North Northants Community First Responders

There are two defibrillators in the village, one at the doctor's surgery and the other beside Lydia's coffee shop.

To access these in an emergency, you need to ring 999 and if they assess that an AED is needed, they will send you to the nearest accessible device.

North Northants Community First Responders are a group of volunteers who offer their time to support the ambulance service. From a range of different backgrounds, we are committed to a minimum of 16 hours each month responding plus some fund raising and regular training. As CFRs we work alongside East Midlands Ambulance Service (EMAS). We are trained to respond to 999 and 111 calls within our local community. If you would like to join us in any capacity, you would be more than welcome. We need responders, fund raisers, or any other support to keep our group financially viable and growing. We are also looking for a Gretton responder. If anyone is interested, we really need you, so please have a chat with me or contact admin@northnorthantscfr.nhs.uk.



As a completely self-funded voluntary group we need to raise all the funds we need. Currently we are raising funds to add bleed kits to our AED (defibrillators). The parish council are looking to raise funds for two further defibs: one at The Hatton and the other at The Village Hall. I check our machines every month to ensure they are ready for use.

One of our activities is to collect used clothes including underwear, handbags, paired shoes and any other linen (curtains, sheets etc.) We now have a Clothing Bank in the village beside the MUGA at the playing field. Please feel free to take your recycling there. If you need someone to collect, please let me know.

Thank you Gretton for all your support since I became your local CFR in January 2021.

Hilary Lunt, On behalf of the group.



Gretton Village Hall

The hall is now in use on a very regular basis with hirers running activities almost every day. We also have several weekend bookings for parties and some regular bookings.

The committee will be discussing plans and maintenance issues for 2023 during the next few months to ensure that the hall remains financially viable and fit for purpose.

I am aware that there are some problems affecting those living close to the hall and we are in the process of addressing these at present. I will publish these solutions as they are achieved.

Village Lunches are as popular as ever with very good attendances recently.

The format is the same: four different soups, bread, and cheese and four different puddings to choose from with tea or coffee, plus a raffle and the 200 - club draw.

We have some new recruits to the catering- team and I am very grateful for the efforts of all team members to enable this activity to continue.

The dates for the lunches are Tuesday 1st November and Tuesday 6th December – this will be our usual Christmas lunch with a festive theme and comes with a glass of wine and other extras for all attending.

Bridge Drives recommenced this month with the first since Covid interrupted everything. We had a new leader for the Bridge and the event was very successful. The day commenced with Coffee and biscuits followed by play until a two- course lunch with wine. Play resumed during the afternoon and prizes were awarded at the end of the day.

The next bridge drive will hopefully be in April 2023. We will advertise this when dates are confirmed.

I would like to express my gratitude to the team who arranged and assisted with this event which provides much needed extra funding for the village hall. I need to thank Helen Heywood for agreeing to take over the organisation of bookings and coordination for bridge drives. My thanks also to Barrie Edwards who previously fulfilled this task for a number many years.

The team were ably supported by extra helpers who assisted with setting up and clearing away. We are indeed fortunate to have those in the village who so willing give their time to support the hall.

The Online Bookings System is now working well, and this assists our bookings secretary to record all requests for bookings and produce invoices more efficiently.

Contact details for the hall:

Chairperson – Liz Watt Mob 07484 803919

email: elizabethmwatt@me.com

Bookings - Emily Arnold - Mob: 07391 895078

email: bookingsGVH@outlook.com

Village Hall Entertainments

It is still proving very difficult to book any productions for the near future, with possible dates often clashing with existing hall bookings, but next year we will have a film show of local interest, some screenings of commercial films on general release and by popular request a return visit from the Canadian duo "Over the Moon".

Any other suggestions for music or drama events will be gratefully received!

Andy Butterworth, annandy5@talktalk.net

Gretton Local History Society

Our open meeting " The Northants Film Archive Trust " was very well appreciated and we will be able to view a further selection of their local films next year (see below). The society AGM was recently held: all current committee members were re-elected and the treasurer reported on our healthy financial situation.

Future Local History Meetings in the Village Hall:

Nov 25th - " An Almshouse Establishment ". Nick Hill will talk about Browne's Hospital, Stamford. Founded in 1475 the history of the almshouse reveals an interesting view of medieval life and recent research has revealed another purpose of this very fine building.

Jan 27th - " Jewel in the Crown ". Telling the history of the Cullinan diamond will be our very own Gretton resident Bill Cullinan. The funeral of Queen Elizabeth and the anticipated coronation of King Charles have brought the British Crown Jewels into the news. The Cullinan is by far the largest raw diamond ever found. The history of its name, how and where it was found will be followed by the amazing story of its journey to the UK and subsequent transformation into several brilliant stones which, for example, were incorporated into the Crown and Sceptre.

March 24th - " The Origins of the Medieval Village " by Andy Chapman. Gretton can lay claim to being a medieval village - it existed before the Norman Conquest and is listed in the Domesday Book.

May 26th - " Northamptonshire Film Archive Trust ". This return visit from the Film Archive will include some early footage of the steel works by Stewarts and Lloyd. The trust, with an archive of some 4000, mostly amateur-made films, is always looking out for old film taken in the county. If you have or know of anything please bring information to the meeting. All films are copied and preserved for posterity.

Further dates for talks (subjects TBA) are July 28th, September 22nd and November 24th.

All meetings are held in the Village Hall commencing at 7.30pm and are open to all. Visitors pay £3 per talk; society members are admitted free.

Annual membership is currently £10 per year, renewed in January for existing members.

For any historical queries about Gretton and its people, or if you have any information or artefacts for our archive, please contact any member of the committee - Sandy Brown, Andy Butterworth, Ann Craske, Elisabeth Jordan, Ian Preston and Margaret Trenwith.

Gretton Art Club

Meeting in the Village Hall every Monday from 1.30 to 3.30pm, we are a convivial lot pursuing all kinds of artwork styles and media. About once a month our mentor, Jax Crewe, attends to keep us inspired and help with specific materials and methods. If you are interested in joining us, please come along and see what we get up to (tea & biscuits provided!).

Fees are £5 per session or £8 when Jax is in attendance.

Andy, Ann and Charlotte

Gretton Women's Institute

Gretton WI is now back to regular meetings at the Village Hall at 7.30pm on the second Tuesday of the month and we held our 81st AGM at this October's meeting.

It has been a good year with membership staying stable and adequate funds in our bank account, despite the cancellation of some fundraising events. We looked back on the various talks we had enjoyed and the entertainments we had shared at the Village Hall and looked ahead to another active year.

We have new members on our committee and we have put together a varied programme, beginning in November with a talk on 'Ladies who make us Laugh' which should put us in the right frame of mind to continue into December and our Christmas celebrations. New members are always very welcome to come and join in so do get in touch, or come along to a meeting and be our guest, we should be happy to see you.

Pat Triffitt, 770311

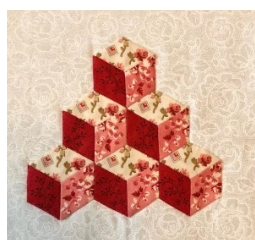


Gretton Quilting Group

We are a group of 30 enthusiastic quilters and learners who meet on the third Saturday of each month in Gretton Village Hall from 11.15 to 4.15pm. We range in age from 15 to the more mature!

Our group have quilted a wall hanging called *Covid Memories*. This wall hanging will hang in the village hall and we hope you will enjoy sharing our memories of an unusual and challenging time.

After several delays we have finally started to work on a mini quilt based on many different quilting techniques. This has been aimed at newcomers learning basic skills and for those with more experience the fun of relearning old skills and different styles of quilting.



Tumbling blocks



Rail Fence

Our group allows for shared learning as several newcomers are beginning to use sewing machines and finding how to be accurate in cutting and assembling to ensure a piece to be proud of.

We certainly had many smiles and feelings of getting to grips with a new skill.

Anyone who fancies having a go and joining us come along and see what we do. Visitors are always welcome.

Happy Stitching!

Hilary Lunt, 07867 381 599

Gretton Paddock Park

It is the season of mellow fruitfulness with crab apple, walnut and apple trees abundant in the pocket park.

Recently our band of volunteers carried out the annual hay cut to the wildflower meadow and undertook some pond clearance work.

Time is taking its toll as the years roll by with restoration work needed on the noticeboard and the replacement of some of the bird boxes with new ones.



Volunteering

If you are able to help, please remember that our work mornings take place on the first Saturday of each month any time between 9.30 and 12.30. If you would like to help but at a different time, please give me a ring.

We also meet once a month at 8.00 pm in the Hatton Arms on the third Wednesday, so please come along.

PS. If you have a keen interest in nature and would like to be involved in monitoring and surveying our animal and plant life, please let me know.

Bob Dobson - Paddock Park Secretary: 770734

Gretton Gardening Group

Yet another season is upon us, and what wonderful autumnal colours there are in the fields and hedges surrounding our village. But amongst all these “proper” colours we can still see many plants with blooms or summer growth on. I just hope we don’t have any sudden frosts to kill off this tender growth, so it’s fingers crossed that nature gets back into a definite cycle ready for next year.

Our Gardening Group has returned to almost pre-covid times with members still visiting and enjoying our programme. If you would like to join us or pop in as a visitor you would be most welcome. We meet in the Village Hall on the third Friday of the month (excluding December for some odd reason!) and our doors are open from 7.30pm, ready for an 8pm start. We have a varied programme of speakers and visits, together with our annual summer BBQ and a Christmas meal. If you type *gretton gardening group* into your browser you will soon see our forthcoming schedule with further information and a contact form. Membership is £20 for the year or £5 for visitors, and we look forward to seeing old and new members soon.

Happy gardening,
Alan Waterman

Greener Gretton

Greener Gretton is a formally constituted group with a Chair (Sara Stewart), a Secretary (Kath Newby), and a Treasurer (Rob Newby).

Recycling

We are collecting empty blister packs for recycling – drop them off at Sara’s house 57 High Street and she will take them to Superdrug in Stamford.

Tesco, Co-op and Morrisons will take all soft plastics which cannot be re-cycled in council bins. This includes washed cat and dog food pouches, crisp packets and any other plastic, which when squeezed bounces back. So don’t throw away, take back to the supermarkets. Argos and Currys take electrical goods for recycling.

Local Food

Discussion about a community allotment is ongoing.

We support the Fruit and Veg swap scheme at the village hall

Sustainable shopping

We continue to support and publicise Rita the Refill Revolution van, which currently visits Gretton on the second Saturday of each month. She is at the Hatton Arms car park from 10 - 11.30. You can buy cleaning items and various food items using your own containers - reducing the use of plastics and in many cases saving money.

Rita also calls at Cottingham Village Stores on alternate Thursdays (11.45 - 1pm) - 20th October then every 2 weeks, but check Facebook for any changes.

Transport

We note that Corby Council has a group working on a Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan, and we are giving some input. We are advocating a good cycling and walking route from Gretton to Corby. We support the local “20’s Plenty” campaign in order to reduce the speed of traffic in the village. We encourage people to turn off their engines when their car is stationary. Idling engines cause pollution.

Next meeting

We intend to hold the next meeting in mid-November; see our Facebook page Greener Gretton or Gretton News and Views for more details. You can also contact us by email at: greenergretton@gmail.com

Alison Merricks

Starting on Tuesday 20th September

Fruit and Veg Swap

Do you have an excess of home-grown fruit or veg you would like to share or swap? Would you like some local produce?

Where: Swapbox outside Gretton Village Hall
What: Fruit, vegetables, herbs, plants and preserves only
When: Accessible at anytime

Free exchange based on honesty, no money please
Please make sure you shut the lid properly.
And if you see anything going off, please remove and bin it, thank you!

If any issues with the swap box please contact Emily on 07391 895078

Gretton Wombles

Why bother to pick up 'other people's litter'?

- For the sake of the oceans, wildlife and farm animals, and indeed human beings;
- The waste of resources which should be re-used, particularly aluminium cans;
- It looks awful!

Gretton Wombles was formed in February 2021, after various problems with litter around the village. We would like to see far more effective recycling, including a deposit and return scheme for drinks cans and plastic bottles. In general people pick as individuals, and at their own risk, although for many years the village has organised two group litter picks per year, one in spring and one in autumn. In the early days, a lot of picking of roads around the village was done, as these are usually much worse than in the village. Please read the safety guidelines below:



Safety Guidelines

Litter picking can be dangerous. We have issued the following safety guidelines for individuals -

1. Wear gloves when picking up litter.
2. Use a litter picker
3. Wear suitable shoes/boots
4. If you are by a road, Hi-Viz clothing is essential
5. Do not take risks near roads or water.
6. Don't pick up broken glass or needles - these should be reported to the local council.

This activity is undertaken at your own risk. The group and admin accept no responsibility for accidents or injuries sustained during litter picking activities.

Contact the council

We are normally asked to leave collected litter near a council bin. If there is a small amount, I usually put it directly in the bin. If there is no bin near, you should contact the council to let them know.

Fly-tipping

You can report fly-tipping to the local council directly at the Cube, Corby or online by using this link - https://my.corby.gov.uk/service/Report_Fly_Tipping

If anyone wishes to help out, I have a few litter-pickers to lend, plus hoops and bags. If anyone has borrowed equipment and no longer uses it, please return it to me - a message via Facebook is probably easiest.

Contact me via Facebook messenger, or Gretton Wombles Page.

Alison Merricks

The Travers Foundation

The Travers Foundation is looking for ambitious and original young musicians who want to perform live.

Musicians with good vocal and musical abilities now have the chance to create live video performances to promote their talent to help them to get more live gigs. TraversTV Video Recording is open to bands, singing groups and solo artists between the ages of 13 and 30 who live in Leicestershire, Northamptonshire, or Rutland.

TraversTV is run by The Travers Foundation, a local volunteer-run charity. They make a real difference by giving financial support to local 13 to 30-year-olds in the region to help them realise their dreams in sports, music, and the arts.

Local young musicians can apply for a live video recording funded by The Travers Foundation and hosted on www.traverstv.live. To help us assess their ability, we ask that each application is supported by a brief unedited audition video no longer than ten minutes. These videos do not need to be of a professional standard, a home phone video will be sufficient. It is important that they are live and unedited and consist of 1 or 2 tracks to showcase their talent. Musicians under 18 will need to be accompanied by an adult. The Travers Foundation will supply PA, Mics, lighting, and cameras and cover all the costs for recording, editing, and publishing your video. The value of this session is £750.

To apply, visit www.traverstv.live and hit "Apply Here."

Terry Forsey

Gretton Silver Band

The band had a very successful summer, providing light entertainment in the open air in lovely Northamptonshire, Leicestershire and Rutland villages. Playing at all our usual venues, we were given a very warm welcome by the organisers.

We also enjoyed giving concerts in the band stands in the Rockingham Road Park, Kettering and at Abington Park, Northampton, where we had some very encouraging comments from many of the audiences, so I think we can say 'job well done'!

Members of the band were able to participate in the official arrangements in the village to mark the sad passing of the late Queen Elizabeth II. We will be taking part in the Remembrance Day parade and service on November 13th.

Once again, the band will be busy in the lead up to Christmas, with a concert in the village Hall on Saturday evening, 10 December. Light refreshments will be served and a raffle will also be held. Admission prices are £5 per ticket (£4 concession). Everybody is welcome to enjoy some festive music and help us all to get in the Christmas spirit.

Weather permitting, we will be playing carols round the village on Sunday 11th December. We are also playing at the Baptist Church Carol Service on the 18th December at 6.00pm.

Finally, on behalf of the band, I'd like to thank everybody in the village for supporting the band over what has been a very difficult period over the last few years.

Peter Weston

Friends of Gretton Recreation Ground

Skate Park and Outdoor Gym

The Friends group, with support from the Parish Council, has submitted an application for grant funding to FCC Community Fund to enable these projects to proceed. It is expected that a decision will be made in early December and, if successful, it is possible that the equipment could be installed during the spring. We will keep everyone informed of the outcome.

Family Fun Day

It was with regret that the Fun Day was cancelled this year. It was felt that many villagers would wish to show the appropriate respect during the time of national mourning following the death of Queen Elizabeth and the Group hopes that this decision was understood and supported. The event will be held in 2023 and we look forward to planning a full programme of activities and attractions for the village to enjoy. Please contact us if you would like to be involved.

Activities

Do you feel like some exercise? Inspired by our great sports people or just looking for a sociable evening activity? Try out some of the FUN activities on the Recreation Ground and MUGA. Aimed at adults with a range of abilities – or even none at all! Cost £1.00. Just turn up with your trainers.

Mondays 7.30 pm (except bank holidays) - Ladies Netball

Tuesdays 7.30 pm – Tennis

Wednesdays 7.30pm – Fun and Fitness – multi activities including walking football, hockey, basketball, rounders, frisbee and more – all at your own pace.

These activities are all self-run in the evenings for the benefit of the village and for anyone to join. If you would like more details or have ideas for new activities, please contact bookthemuga@gmail.com or find us on Facebook at Gretton Recreation Ground.

Book the MUGA

If the MUGA is not pre-booked it is available to use free of charge for a range of sports.

If you wish to reserve a playing time (for which there is a charge of £5 per hour for village residents or £10 for non-residents) please do so by e-mailing: bookthemuga@gmail.com or message on Facebook. Equipment is available to borrow for netball, volleyball, football, basketball and tennis.



The Friends of Gretton Recreation Ground are very active and are committed to improving the facilities for the whole village to enjoy. We meet approximately every two months, usually in the Sports Pavilion, and welcome all members of the community who have any interest in the Recreation Ground and the activities that take place. If anyone would like to know more about the Friends group or would like to help in any way, please contact Tim Fox via email: bookthemuga@gmail.com

Tim Fox

Gretton Sports and Social Club

Gretton Sports & Social Club is a not-for-profit organisation run by our members for the benefit of the community, new members are welcome to join at any time, our yearly membership fee is £10 per adult and £5 for seniors.

There's plenty going on at the club over the next few months with the World Cup kicking off in November and leading us right up to Christmas. We will be open for every England game so come cheer on the boys with us! Other upcoming events over the next few months include:

November:

- Sat 12th – OWAYSIS (Oasis tribute band)
- Friday 18th – Children in Need Fundraising Quiz Night
- Sat 19th – George Boon Skittles Competition
- Mon 21st – England's opening WC game 1pm kick off (open at 12)

December

- Fri 2nd – Monthly Darts Night
- Sat 17th – Children's Christmas Party
- Sun 18th – World Cup Final
- Sun 25th – Christmas Day Open 12 till 2.30pm
- Sat 31st – New Year's Eve Party

The latest investment our club has made is the installation of a gazebo structure over part of our patio area, to provide a degree of shade during the summer months and shelter throughout the winter. Shortly we will be adding heating and lighting to this area too.

Finally, we'd like to take the opportunity to thank those members of the committee who stood down at the recent AGM, Darren Baines, Shay Shannon, Diane Wright & Lee Wright - we are grateful to

all for your contribution. The committee is particularly keen to recognise Diane's long association with the club initially as steward and then as committee member, as such the committee voted unanimously to make Diane a life member of the club.

Fraser Wright



Bowling Club

As the nights draw in, it can be tempting to stay huddled at home in front of the TV or fire, but the Bowling Club offers a warm welcome and an opportunity to socialise every week. So why not come along to the village hall between 7 and 9pm on Wednesday evenings for some gentle exercise, chat and friendship? We even stop for a cuppa at 8pm! If you are new to bowls, we can lend you equipment to get you started. So, you have nothing to lose – come along and give bowling a try!

Marshall Ferguson 01536 770521

Cricket Club

We would like to begin with a huge thank you to all those volunteers who make the continuation of cricket in the village possible. Thank you to Bert Woolley our umpire, Terri Meechan our scorer, Teresa Baines for the exquisite teas, groundsman Fraser Wright and Steve Ellis for assisting with the outfield.

On the field 2022 was a relatively successful season for Gretton, finishing 6th in Division 9 of the Northants Cricket League, our highest finishing league position since 2017. We ended the league season with 11 wins, the most since 2013.

As well as notable improvements in team performances, a number of individuals posted impressive achievements:

- The standout bowler was Michael Houseman, ending the season with 44 wickets, followed by Paul Swan (24), Rob Ellis (23), Harry Pavitt (18) and Kieran Jakes (15). Paul Swan's brilliant spell that brought 7 wickets at Great Houghton 2nds was the highlight of the individual performances, leading him to make the Northants Cricket League Honours Board for the 2022 season.
- With the bat, Liam Park was the talisman ending the season with a total of 638 runs, followed by Rob Ellis (518), Nathan Innes (371), Harry Pavitt (231) and Paul Swan (201). Centuries were scored by Liam Park and Rob Ellis (both twice).
- In the field, wicketkeeper Liam Park took 13 catches followed by Rob Ellis (12), Harry Pavitt (8), Paul Swan (6), Nathan Innes (5) and Stanley Roberts (5, impressive in his first season of senior cricket).

Overall, the most impressive feature of the 2022 season is the continued team spirit and enthusiasm for the game. We are a club with a strong social spirit and welcome new players of any experience level. We have indoor nets throughout the winter and intend to restart a midweek team this coming season. Please feel free to contact Gretton Cricket Club via facebook if you are interested.

Rob Ellis and Fraser Wright



Dates for Your Diary

November		see page ...
Tues 1 st	Village Lunch at the village hall	14
Fri 4 th	Forget-me-not café St James' Church	11
Sat 5 th	Paddock Park volunteers	17
Tues 8 th	WI evening meeting	16
Sat 12 th	Rita refill at The Hatton Arms	18
Sat 12 th	Tribute band at Gretton Sports and Social Club	22
Sun 13 th	Remembrance Day events	5
Fri 18 th	Gretton Gardening Group Christmas meeting	17
Fri 18 th	Children in Need fundraiser at Gretton Sports and Social Club	22
Sat 19 th	Gretton Quilters meeting	16
Wed 24 th	'A Night to Remember' at St James' Church	10
Thurs 25 th	'An Almshouse Establishment' Local History evening	15
December		
Fri 2 nd	Forget-me-not café St James' Church	11
Sat 3 rd	Paddock Park volunteers	17
Sun 4 th	Christingle Service – St James' Church	11
Tues 6 th	Village Christmas Lunch at the village hall	14
Fri 9 th	Bus survey closes	13
Sat 10 th	Rita Refill at The Hatton Arms	18
Sat 10 th	Silver Band concert at the village hall	20
Sun 11 th	Christmas Fête in the village hall, 10-2	8
Tues 13 th	WI evening meeting	16
Sat 17 th	Gretton Quilters Christmas meeting	16
Sat 17 th	Children's Christmas Party at Gretton Sports and Social Club	22
Sun 18 th	Baptist Church Carol Service	10
Wed 21 st	Carols by Candlelight – St James' Church	11
Sat 24 th	Carols around the Crib – St James' Church & Midnight Communion	11
Sun 25 th	Baptist Church Christmas day service	10
January		
Tues 3 rd	Village Lunch at village hall	14
Fri 6 th	Forget-me-not café St James' Church	11
Fri 20 th	Gretton Gardening Group meeting	17
Sat 21 st	Gretton Quilters meeting	16
Fri 27 th	'Jewel in the Crown' Local History evening	15
February		
Fri 3 rd	Forget-me-not café St James' Church	11
Tues 7 th	Village Lunch at the village hall	14
Mon 13 th	Deadline for articles for the spring newsletter	3