

# GRETTON LIFE

Spring 2023



PUBLISHED ON BEHALF OF GRETTON PARISH COUNCIL

# From the Chair of the Parish Council

Hello,

A belated Happy New Year to you all. This year the Parish Council are looking forward to supporting the celebrations for the Coronation of our new King in May. Planning is already under way so please keep an eye out for further news as and when it becomes available. We are excited to be able to bring the village together again to celebrate this momentous occasion.



We are in the process of setting up a Good Neighbour Scheme in Gretton. The best help is often closest to home. Good Neighbour schemes are established and run by local people to provide day to day support to other residents who may need help on an occasional or regular basis. They bridge that gap between formal and informal support at a local level and help to address the issue of social isolation that can affect so many residents, young and old. Each scheme is operated via a mobile phone which is held in turn by a core group of volunteers for an agreed period of time. Any resident in need of genuine help can ring the number and the co-ordinator will then identify an appropriate volunteer to provide the help requested and agree a time and date. Help is given free, although a reasonable charge is usually made for transport mileage.

The format of a Good Neighbour Scheme is determined by the people who use it. For example, you might want assistance in changing a light bulb, putting bins out, help with your smartphone or PC, help with light gardening, dog walking, fetching shopping or prescriptions, collecting or taking post to the Post Office, giving you a lift to vital appointments or the shops, or an occasional visit from a Good Neighbour (who might arrive with a little treat!) – or anything else that you feel would make your life a little bit easier or less stressful.

The success of such a scheme, of course, is dependent upon the volunteers who run it. We are looking for people from all age groups to get involved. This is a good opportunity for the younger members of our community to get involved. If you are participating in the Duke of Edinburgh awards (or something similar) or just want to learn about the rewards of volunteering, we will help you to do so under supervision and give you guidance and support. If you are an adult, then we will look to match your skills with the requests that come in. The benefits of volunteering offer the chance to get involved with your community and do as much or as little as you want. You may meet new people you might not otherwise have met and help reduce the feeling of social isolation. The rewards of being a volunteer are sometimes unexpected and it is often said that the volunteers get more out of such a programme than those using it.

Please do give consideration to reaching out for help or volunteering. You can contact us on 07518 613684 or by email at [Grettongoodneighbours@gmail.com](mailto:Grettongoodneighbours@gmail.com).

Last, but not least, there are posters around the village showing the various “warm hubs” available to all. I am sure you will be greeted with a very warm welcome, so please do make use of them.

**Jacki Lilley**  
**Chair, Gretton Parish Council**

# From the Clerk to the Parish Council

**Gretton Parish Council (GPC) represents the interests of the local community, endeavours to deliver services to meet local needs and strives to improve the quality of life in the parish.**

Your Parish Councillors strive to follow the Seven Principles of Public Life: Selflessness, Integrity, Objectivity, Accountability, Openness, Honesty and Leadership. You will find these principles on the agenda as a reminder to Councillors on how to conduct themselves whilst in the role as Councillor.

GPC meets every second Monday of the month, at 19:30 in the Meeting Room at the Village Hall. Prior to each monthly meeting, you will find the agenda published on our website and also on Parish Council noticeboards around the village (by the bus stop outside the Village Hall, the village shop and our newest noticeboard near the MUGA at the Recreation Ground).

We value the views of local residents, and welcome any attendance at the monthly meetings. We provide an opportunity to address the councillors during the Open Forum item on the agenda.

Additionally, we encourage villagers to communicate questions or concerns about anything that may affect the Parish. I can be contacted personally through any of the contact details provided below and will ensure all relevant detail is passed on to the Parish Councillors.

Sara Golding  
Clerk to Gretton Parish Council  
Email: [clerkgpc@btinternet.com](mailto:clerkgpc@btinternet.com)  
Mobile: 07517886604  
Letters: GPC post-box, located at the front of the Village Hall

# From the Editor

Hello everyone,  
Doesn't it make a difference when the first signs of spring appear? These beautiful snowdrops were braving the wind and rain in the Paddock Park today. We are so fortunate to have this lovely green space to enjoy in our village and even more fortunate that we have volunteers who help to maintain it for everyone's benefit.

As we look ahead to the events of this spring, including the Coronation Celebrations, let's raise a grateful toast to the many hardworking volunteers who provide so many village events, activities and shared spaces.

**THANK YOU FOR MAKING A DIFFERENCE!**

Collectively and individually, we face many challenges at the moment, but to quote the environmentalist Jane Goodall, "the greatest danger to our future is apathy." So, sit back, enjoy this edition of the Gretton Life newsletter and then vow to get involved! You won't regret it!

Yvette Redding,  
[yvette@reddingfamily.net](mailto:yvette@reddingfamily.net)



# Coronation Celebrations in Gretton



In May we will be enjoying an additional Bank Holiday to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III. Plans for Gretton's Coronation Celebration got underway in January with a public meeting held in the Sports Pavilion to seek ideas and suggestions for how the village could celebrate.

The Coronation ceremony itself will occur on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> May with national events of celebration taking place throughout the weekend. Our steering committee is proposing that Gretton joins with the Coronation Big Lunches that are occurring on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May. In a departure from our Jubilee celebrations however, we intend to relocate to the Recreation Ground. This will allow us to combine the Big Lunch with a wider Fun Day event on the field having had to cancel the 2022 event following the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.



The steering committee will continue to host further monthly meetings to plan the event, if anybody wishes to be involved in any capacity, please email [bookthemuga@gmail.com](mailto:bookthemuga@gmail.com).

Details of when the meetings will occur will also be posted on village Facebook pages. More details on timings and activities will be confirmed in the coming months, look out for a leaflet drop nearer the time with a precise timetable of events.

## Calling all knitters and crocheters!

### **Gretton Poppies** - aka knitted and crocheted flowers

We are working on our next project which is supporting Gretton Flower Festival 23<sup>rd</sup>-25 June – Art to Flowers. We are looking to make as many flowers as we can to be able to drape a display outside the church. So, we are asking for help from anybody that can knit or crochet to support us by making flowers – all sizes, all colours – knitted or crocheted. Can you help us?



If you would like to learn to crochet there is a crochet club running on Tuesday nights 7-9pm at the Baptist Church where people can learn to crochet. It's a lovely social occasion to crochet together and build skills - £3 a week and all abilities are welcome. We are planning to have all flowers completed by end of May to allow us time to assemble the display. Happy for flowers to be dropped off to me at 19 Fulwell Avenue. Here is our Facebook group if you want to know more - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/379833213220945>

Fiona Chapman

## Looking Back ...

Gretton celebrated the Coronation of King George VI on Wednesday 12th May 1937 with a fancy-dress parade. Leading the parade round the village was this coach with Mr Charles Wootton, blacksmith, as coachman and Billy Fursdon as his assistant. King George and Queen Elizabeth were represented by Eileen Bush and Mary Homan.

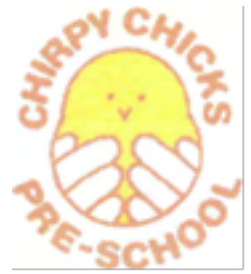
Elisabeth Jordan  
Gretton Local History Society



# Chirpy Chicks Pre-school

It has been another great term at Chirpy Chicks Pre-school. We have been very busy with the children exploring the winter season and welcoming new families and children to our setting.

We enjoyed our first Christmas Stay and Play and it was lovely to be able to invite our families back into the setting to take part in some seasonal arts and crafts, alongside their children. We will be holding another Stay and Play at the end of the term, this time with an Easter theme. We also had a lovely invitation from Gretton Baptist Chapel to go and help decorate their Christmas tree. This was a lovely experience for the children and we would like to say a big thank you to both Peter and Karen for their open invitation.



This term we are really looking forward to our annual trip to West Hill's Farm, where the children will be able to meet the cows and if we are lucky, see lots of newly born lambs. A big thank you to Farmer Austin for allowing the children to come and visit again this year.

Nature Nursery is looking forward to exploring the spring season. We have been busy over winter building dens, making leaf butterflies, climbing trees, making clay faces, rolling down hills and enjoying snacks around the campfire.

Baking club has had a great term and been a huge hit with the children, they have made some delicious

banana bread along with many other amazing baking treats, which we have all been able to enjoy.

At Chirpy Chicks we really value the children, following their own individual and unique curriculums, and planning alongside the children and their families some wonderful adventures and experiences for them to take part in.



If you would like to come and visit Chirpy Chicks Pre School and see what we have to offer then please do contact us on 01536 771711 or email our Early Years Teacher and Manager Samantha on [samantha@chirpy-chicks.co.uk](mailto:samantha@chirpy-chicks.co.uk) who would be more than happy to show you around.

# Gretton Primary School

Gretton Primary has been busy over the past few weeks getting involved in local initiatives. Our school community is working alongside the Parish Council to address the parking issues outside the school. In a recent assembly children talked about not feeling safe whilst walking to school and the difficulties created for children and parents when cars are parked inconsiderately. The School Council are meeting with members of the Parish Council to put forward some of their ideas as to how the village might address the issues of parking and speeding and we are looking forward to the arrival of some "Parking Buddies" which will hopefully deter people from parking dangerously around the school entrance.

The school has opened up twice recently as a "Warm Hub" providing an inviting space for residents to come for a cup of tea, a slice of cake and a chat. We will be running sessions after our half term break and invite



anyone from the community to pop in – please look out for the dates which will be circulated by the Parish Council.

We are looking forward to upcoming celebrations in honour of the Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III. The school will bring forward its traditional Rose Fair celebrations to coincide with the Coronation so that children can experience the crowing of our very own Rose King and Queen and develop their understanding of this momentous event. The Rose King and Queen and their attendants will form part of the village celebrations over the course of the Coronation weekend.

We always welcome visitors from the community to the school and if there are any budding reading volunteers out there, please get in touch. We have a merry band of volunteers coming in to hear children read weekly and this 1:1 reading opportunity is invaluable to our children and their reading development. If you would like to volunteer, please contact the school office at [admin@grettonprimary.org](mailto:admin@grettonprimary.org)

Julia Dickinson, Headteacher.

## Gretton Beavers and Cubs

We are really excited to announce that following the successful re-launch of the Beaver Section of 1<sup>st</sup> Gretton Scout Group last September, we are now re-launching the cub section which will be available for all our local children aged between 7  $\frac{3}{4}$  and 10  $\frac{1}{2}$ .

Jade is in the process of putting together an exciting programme that will be fun and cover the essential skills for life that make up the Scouting principle. We are looking to have our first meeting immediately after the Easter School Holiday on Monday April 17<sup>th</sup> at 7pm in Gretton Village Hall, Kirby Road, Gretton.

If your child is interested in joining 1<sup>st</sup> Gretton – the contact details for the Beaver section (6-8 years) is [grettonbeavers@gmail.com](mailto:grettonbeavers@gmail.com), or to put your name down to find out more about the exciting plans for the new cub section contact [Gretton.cubs@hotmail.com](mailto:Gretton.cubs@hotmail.com)

Future dates and times for March, April, May, June:



### Gretton Beavers:

Mondays 5:45 - 6:45 Mar 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> April 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> May 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, June 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>.



### Gretton Cubs:

Mondays 7.00-8.30 April 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> May 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, June 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>.

Any queries – please get in touch.

Catrina Eaton  
1<sup>st</sup> Gretton Scout Group Chair

# Lydia's Coffee Shop & Post Office

Now that spring is here, please come and join us in the café or on the Village Green for a cappuccino or and bacon roll. Lydia's is open every day from 10am -4pm on Tuesdays to Saturdays inclusive. You will always find a friendly face and someone to chat to if you'd like some company.

Lydia's is a not-for-profit organisation run mainly by volunteers who are based in the village or close by. We offer top quality coffee, lunches and home baked fresh cakes at affordable prices. With more people now working from home, we often have lunch specials which are very popular with those who want a quick change of scenery. We also have free Wi-Fi. The shop also has a good selection of greetings cards for all occasions.

If you'd like to get involved as a volunteer, whether it's learning to bake cakes, serving or even washing up, please approach any duty manager. We have a lovely team of volunteers of all ages ranging from teenagers on the Duke of Edinburgh scheme upwards and would love to welcome you to the team.

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



# Royal British Legion

The Legion's motto is "Live On - to the memory of the fallen and the future of the living" and indeed the Remembrance Day Services at Spanhoe Airfield and St James Church Gretton, last November, were very well attended.

The County's Annual Purse Presentation was held towards the end of last year in Duston. The two previous presentations had been cancelled due to the pandemic. Gretton contributed and the grand total handed in amounted to £4700.00.



The Poppy Appeal raised a total of £4944.73 from donations made in Gretton, Harringworth and Laxton that was boosted by a fundraising Race Night held at Gretton Sports and Social Club. A further donation was received to increase the total to £5000. Thank you to everyone for your generosity and for your continued support for the work done by the Royal British Legion. I am extremely grateful to Dave Miller, Honorary Poppy Appeal Organiser, for his hard work and dedication to maintain support for our ex-servicemen and women and to all the individuals who did the door-to-door poppy sales.

Once again, the Knitters and Crocheters from Gretton Poppies put on stunning displays around the village. Thank you to all involved especially to Fiona and Ami Chapman for making it happen (more information on how to help is on page 5).

Shirley Fursdon, Telephone 770784  
Gretton and District Royal British Legion Holding Branch.



# North Northants Community First Responders

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*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.*

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North Northants Community First Responders is a charity; we are a self-funded group of volunteers who offer their time to support the ambulance service. 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, fundraisers, or any other support to keep our group financially viable and growing.

If anyone is interested in joining us please have a chat with me Hilary or contact [admin@northnorthantscfr.nhs.uk](mailto:admin@northnorthantscfr.nhs.uk).

We are helping collect drink cans towards the construction of a helipad at Leicester Royal Infirmary. Please help by taking your cans to the Conservative Club. (A collection cage is behind the club).

We also have two defibrillators in the village both accessible by calling 999, one at the doctor's surgery and the other beside Lydia's coffee shop. The parish council are looking to raise funds for two further defibs: one at The Hatton and the other at The Village Hall.

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

Hilary Lunt , 07867 381599, On behalf of the group.

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.



# Baptist Church

Like many organisations we are still feeling the effects of covid in that we are trying to get things going again and looking for new ideas in a changed world. The final part of renovating the chapel has now been completed with the balcony benches being replaced with some more comfortable seating. We now have a fully refurbished and comfortable building which gives us more scope and freedom in the activities we can do. On occasions we have held café style services which are very informal and enable us to explore new ways of worshipping together.

Our services continue to be well supported. Recently a service was led by a missionary who works in a dangerous part of the world who explained how they were working with locals to grow different crops in harsh conditions. A far cry from Gretton.

Our morning services continue to be held each Sunday morning at 10.15am with an evening prayer meeting at 6pm. We have groups which meet during the week and if anyone would like to join one then please do contact me.

Looking ahead to Easter our services will be:

Good Friday meditation at 10:15am

Easter Sunday service also at 10.15am

Everyone is welcome to attend these or any other services.

As a church family we want to bring the love of Jesus to anyone in need. If you are in need in any way, it may be that we can help so do get in touch with us. It may also be that you have an interest in the Christian faith and would like to discuss it in which case we may be able to set something up for you to do that.

Everyone is always very welcome to our services so do come along and join us. You do not need to dress in a particular way; just come as you are.

Rev Peter Lloyd

69 High Street, 01536 772155



# St James' Church

These next months are full of new life and new beginnings. As a Church Family we're heading towards Holy Week and Easter where we celebrate the power of resurrection life and the defeat of death. We've a number of special services which explore the events of that first Holy Week and we'd love for you to join us.

In May we will come together as a nation to celebrate the Coronation of His Majesty the King and Her Majesty the Queen Consort on 6th May. At St James' we'll be having a special service to pray for King Charles III - more details to come soon! His coronation will formalise his role as Supreme Governor of the Church of England (not the 'Head' of the Church of England - that's Jesus) so we have a somewhat vested interest!

In June we will be welcoming Joe Griffiths and his family to Gretton. After his ordination at Peterborough Cathedral, Joe will be starting his curacy with both St James' Church, Gretton, and St John's Church, Corby. As a family they will be based in Gretton and will become familiar faces in the village. Joe and his wife have three young daughters, and in addition to his family he loves Jesus and golf!



## 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

## Holy Week and Easter Services at St James' Church

Palm Sunday - 2nd April at 9am

A service for all ages as we begin Christ's journey to the cross.

Stations of the Cross, Wednesday 5th April at 10am

A reflective Service re-tracing the Way of the Cross and concluding with Holy Communion.

An Hour at the Cross, Friday, 7th April at 2pm

Marking the final hour with a reflective service of readings and songs.

Easter Sunday, 9th April at 9am

A family service with Holy Communion followed by refreshments and an Easter Egg Hunt.

**Forget Me Not Café** - 1st Friday of Each Month 11am-midday - March 3rd,  
April 7th, May 5th and June 2nd.

Forget Me Not Cafe provides a place and 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.

## Gretton Flower Festival

Advanced notice that the flower festival will be on the

**23rd, 24th, and 25th June**

more details coming soon!

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.

Every blessing,

Rev'd Paul Frost, Rector of St John's Church, Corby and St James' Church, Gretton

# Gretton Village Hall

The hall continues to attract many regular hirers and we are pleased to see the hall in use so regularly. New hirers are always welcome if appropriate time slots are available, and we would encourage Gretton residents to use this facility to ensure it has a viable future at the heart of the village.

In response to recent concerns regarding some bookings the committee has made certain changes to booking criteria and we hope that these changes will reduce the nuisance caused previously on some occasions.

I would like to assure everyone that we are always willing to listen to your opinions or concerns regarding the village hall and welcome suggestions or comments. My contact details are included in this article should you wish to talk to me about 'all things village hall'.

The committee has been investigating possible heating solutions to make the hall more comfortable for hirers and hopefully reduce the costs of utility bills. We hope to access charitable funding to help with the expense of this work which will be quite considerable. Any work would be undertaken during times to reduce disruption for our hirers.

## VILLAGE LUNCHES

The 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 7<sup>th</sup> March, 4<sup>th</sup> April, 2<sup>nd</sup> May, 6<sup>th</sup> June and 4<sup>th</sup> July. There is no Lunch in August. Lunches resume in September.

## THE BRIDGE DRIVE

The next bridge drive will be on 18<sup>th</sup> April 2023. We are planning to have another later in the year. This has been advertised and we hope to have a good response. For further information please contact Helen Heywood, email: [Villagehallgretton@outlook.com](mailto:Villagehallgretton@outlook.com)

## BOOKINGS

Our Bookings secretary, Emily has been working very hard during the last year to set up the systems for booking and invoicing.

The online bookings system is now working well, and this assists our bookings secretary to record all requests for booking and produce invoices more efficiently.

We will unfortunately be saying goodbye to Emily during the summer, as she will move out of Gretton following her marriage.

Although this is not imminent, I would like to thank Emily for the hard work she has done while bookings secretary, always achieving the role with kindness and quiet confidence. We will miss her and wish her good luck, health, and happiness for the future.

At this point we will need to find someone to replace her. If you might be interested, please contact me for further information. My contact details are included in this article.

## 200 CLUB

The draw for this is done during our village hall each month and the prizes are £25.00 each month except June and December when it is £50.00 If you would like to purchase shares at £12.00 per year please contact Barrie Edwards, details below.

## CONTACT DETAILS FOR THE HALL:

Chairperson – Liz Watt Mob 07484 803919

email: [elizabethmwatt@me.com](mailto:elizabethmwatt@me.com)

Bookings - Emily Arnold - Mob: 07391 895078

email: [bookingsGVH@outlook.com](mailto:bookingsGVH@outlook.com)

200 Club – Barrie Edwards

Email: [Edwards\\_gretton@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:Edwards_gretton@yahoo.co.uk)

Bridge Drives – Helen Heywood

Email: [villagehallgretton@outlook.co.uk](mailto:villagehallgretton@outlook.co.uk)

## Gretton Village Hall Entertainments

Now that the problem of covid and general cessation of cultural activities seems to be over we have, at last, a drama production booked for the Hall. On **Sunday March 12th** at 7-30pm we present "**The Swearing Jar**", written with music and lyrics by Kate Hewlett. Recently released on film, Angharad Jones directs this award-winning, bittersweet comedy.

Meet the "perfect couple" Simon and Carey. He has news to share but she gets in first with a jar - the swearing has to stop! They are to have a baby. When Carey enlists the help of a musician friend to throw a birthday concert for Simon, we discover life changing secrets from their past.....

For more information see [www.newperspectives.co.uk](http://www.newperspectives.co.uk)

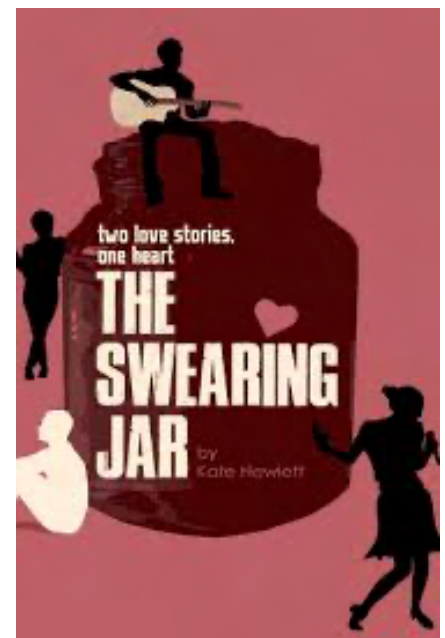
Suitable for 14yrs + this show is sponsored by Northants Touring Arts and Arts Council England.

Later this year, on **Sunday Sept 30th**, we feature the welcome return of Canadian duo "**Over the Moon**", on their second UK tour. Hailing from the foothills of Alberta's Rocky Mountains, Suzanne Levesque (vocals/double bass/guitar) and Craig Bignell (vocals/guitar/5 string banjo) present strong vocal harmony songs with a common thread that speaks of the Canadian West. For more information, see [www.overthemoonband.com](http://www.overthemoonband.com)

All tickets for these events are £12; please order or reserve from Andy Butterworth 01536-771102, or [annandy5@talktalk.net](mailto:annandy5@talktalk.net), or buy on the door.

Both shows will commence at 7-30pm in the Village Hall, with a bar and raffle. (All profits to the village hall maintenance fund).

Thanks for your support, Andy Butterworth, [annandy5@talktalk.net](mailto:annandy5@talktalk.net)



# Gretton Local History Society

The society opened the new year of talks in January with a fascinating account of the history of the "Cullinan" diamond, now incorporated into the British Crown Jewels. Well known Gretton resident Bill Cullinan explained the history of the diamond (the largest ever found) and also his family connection with the owner of the mine where it was discovered. A very appreciative capacity audience was only disappointed by the lack of samples available to handle!

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 - The **"Northamptonshire Film Archive Trust"** return by popular request with a programme including some early footage of Stewart & Lloyd's Corby steel works, as well as other mostly amateur Northamptonshire film.

July 28th - **"Six Cheeses for Cromwell - the Story of Launde Abbey"** by Ros Willatts. Launde Abbey, to the west of Oakham, is a much-modified Elizabethan manor house on the former site of an Augustinian Priory founded before 1125, but dissolved by Henry VIII.

Sept 22nd - **"Warrior Women of the English Civil War"** - by Stephen Barker. Though not often taking part in the conflict some women actively participated, and this talk looks at six women who fought, undertook spying missions and were involved in political negotiating. This meeting will be followed by the AGM.

Nov 24th - **"Our County Record Office"**. Sarah Bridges will explain the work of the Archive Society and the types of record held, including examples from Gretton and our local area.

All meetings are held in the Village Hall commencing at 7.30pm. Society members (£10 per annum) have free entry to all talks but visitors are very welcome and pay £3 per talk.

If you have, or know of, any information/ephemera/artefacts of Gretton interest which could be added to our archive please contact any member of our committee: Sandy Brown, Andy Butterworth, Ann Craske, Elisabeth Jordan, Ian Preston and Margaret Trenwith.

# Gretton Women's Institute

Gretton WI meets regularly at 7.30pm on the second Tuesday of the month at the Village Hall and we have a full programme for the coming months. We generally welcome a speaker but we also enjoy other activities, and in between we are always pleased to have a voice at local meetings and to share in local events.

We are proud to be part of a significant national organisation. In line with our National Federation, we are moving our AGM to take place at our March meeting. Our new WI year then starts in April when we welcome a WI Advisor to come and talk to us. We are always open to new members but this would be an ideal time for new members to come and see what we do on a National and County scale as well as here in Gretton.

Speakers visiting us this year have already talked about the local food bank and badgers; in May we are to be given guidance on Looking Good, Feeling Good. June is our summer party which is always a fun event and in July we learn more about the work of women in the RNLI.

So the coming months offer more variety, education and entertainment. Do feel welcome to come along on a Tuesday evening or to get in touch at any time.

Pat Triffitt, 770311

Secretary, Gretton WI



# 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!

We have recently become affiliated to the Quilters Guild – a national charity which promotes all aspects of patchwork and quilting – and have a newly formed committee to share the running of our local group. There are many exciting new activities in the pipeline.

Our group have quilted this wall hanging called Covid Memories. This wall hanging now hangs in the village hall. We hope you will enjoy sharing our memories of an unusual and challenging time.

This year we are continuing to work on a small sampler 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.

We are very fortunate to have a talented and patient teacher, Liz, guiding our learning. 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 have 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 and we have equipment for you to use

Happy Stitching!

Gretton Quilting Group.

Contact Hilary 07867 381 599

STOP PRESS!

*SOCIAL SEWING GROUP, MEETS IN THE VILLAGE HALL TWICE A MONTH.*

*CONTACT BRIDGET HALLER FOR MORE INFORMATION*

*07796 793191*

## Gretton Art Club

Our select group of artists (potential or otherwise!) continue to meet in the Village Hall at 1-30pm every Monday afternoon. We welcome any who wish to pursue all kinds of artwork and media, with assistance from local artist Jax Crewe. We have a good selection of materials available (free) for anyone who would like to see what we get up to (tea and biscuits are, of course, provided!).

Fees are £5 per session, or £8 when Jax attends to inspire us and give practical help with specific media and methods.

Andy Butterworth, Ann Craske and Charlotte Parkin.

## Gretton Paddock Park

It is nice to visit the Paddock Park at spring time when we have new fresh growth. After the snowdrops and daffodils, you will see lots of cowslips growing. It has been a time to coppice some trees and shrubs to regenerate new growth and to encourage wildflower development.



Recently we replaced the decaying log seat by the pond with one donated as a thank you to the Forget-Me-Not-Café group. They meet at St James' church once a month to support those with dementia and their carers.



Decaying bird boxes are being removed and replaced with new ones.

We do need volunteers to help with the maintenance of the pocket park. If you would like to help, we meet on the first Saturday of each month from 9.30 for 2 to 3 hours. If you cannot do that but would still like to help, please give me a ring and we can discuss a more convenient time and the tasks you could do.

We meet at the Hatton Arms on the third Wednesday at 8.00pm to discuss our plans and work ahead, so please come along and join us for a drink.

Your interest in nature may be more observational, if so, you might like to help monitor our animal and plant life.



Bob Dobson – Paddock Park Secretary - 07772789907



# Gretton Gardening Group

We are pleased to say that this last year has seen many new members join us and existing ones still keen to return every month. Our regular meetings take place in the Village Hall on the third Friday of each month, with doors open at 7.30. p.m. ready for an 8.00. p.m. start. Tea or coffee is provided, but if you wish you are welcome to bring your own drinks.

We have another full year of speakers, visits and both a BBQ and Christmas meal to look forward to. If you would like to see what we have to offer then simply type Gretton Gardening Group in your browser where you will see all the upcoming events for the year.

Annual membership is £20.00. but if you just want to come as a visitor for the evening the fee is £5.00. Further information can be seen on the website or you may phone if you prefer to talk to a real person.

Happy gardening to you from Alan and the committee.

Alan Waterman, 01536 772575

## Greener Gretton

We continue to support and publicise Rita the Refill Revolution van, which visits Gretton on the second Saturday of each month. 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 on alternate Thursdays - check Facebook for exact dates.

She is also at Corby Old Village Market on the last Saturday of each month. For up-to-date info you can follow [rita\\_the\\_roadster](#) on Instagram

We note that Corby Council has a group working on a Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan. We have expressed our opinion that safe routes from Gretton to Corby, and also to Priors Hall are essential.

Unfortunately, at present routes to Gretton are not likely to happen soon, but are under consideration for some unspecified time in the future.

“An additional 25 miles of 'secondary' routes have been added to the proposal for future potential development, for example towards Gretton which could become part of the wider North Northamptonshire Greenway”

### Recycling:

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 Curry's take electrical goods for recycling.

Please note that unfortunately it is no longer possible to recycle blister packs at Boots.

We will publicise the date of the next meeting on Facebook - Greener Gretton group, and Gretton News and Views. You can also contact us by email at [greenergretton@gmail.com](mailto:greenergretton@gmail.com)

Alison Merricks



# 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. Our next litter pick will be on a Saturday in late March or early April.

## 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](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

Life's not fair for young people trying to make their mark in sports, performing and creative arts. They can be at a tremendous disadvantage. There are no apprenticeships, government grants, or workplace training programmes. Often the only source of funding is family or friends, or nothing.

That's not fair, and this is the motivation behind the Travers Foundation. Founded in 2012, The Travers Foundation provides vital financial support to help young people to pursue their dreams in sports, creative or performing arts. We are a team of volunteers, which means every penny we raise goes directly towards helping local young people from Leicestershire, Northamptonshire, and Rutland. Since our inception, we have spent £250,000 funding over 600 young people.

"Helping Achieve Your Potential"

- We've helped fund skilled young people to progress from local winners to world champions, winning over 1,500 medals in local, national, and international competitions.
- We've helped local musicians to record and release their debut albums.
- And we've helped aspiring actors and producers launch their acting, filmmaking, and production careers.

## HOW CAN YOU HELP?

1. Volunteer – you can help us to support local young people. Interested? Please get in touch.
2. Fundraise – we receive no funding from the Government or local authorities. We're self-reliant on our fundraising and are always looking for new ways to reach out and raise money. Like to help? Contact us now.
3. Trustee –we're looking for new trustees to help us. If you are passionate about helping young people in Sports, Creative or Performing arts, contact us for an informal chat.

Terry Forsey

[contact@travers-foundation.org.uk](mailto:contact@travers-foundation.org.uk)

[www.travers-foundation.org.uk](http://www.travers-foundation.org.uk)

# Gretton Silver Band

After a short break over the Christmas and New Year Period, the band has recommenced their rehearsals on Thursday nights, starting at 8.00pm and concluding at 9.30pm.

We welcome any new players who wish to join us, instruments and tuition are provided to anybody who may be interested. We would welcome a percussionist particularly, but anybody who is, perhaps, fed up with the cut and thrust of contesting or perhaps were a member of a band a few years ago but would like to join a friendly, non-contesting band then Gretton Silver Band is the place for you.

The band is sorry that we were unable to complete the whole of the village in our traditional carolling this year. The cold weather beat us but we hope to make it up in some way or other. We had a very successful Christmas concert in December and we would like to thank everybody for turning up to join in, particularly as we were competing against the England versus France World Cup football match. I think that we were a bit happier with the result of our concert than many English football supporters were with their result! Once again, the band played at the Baptist Church carol service and it is always very satisfying to join in with the Church on their special occasion.

Already the band has been engaged to play at several fêtes and will be playing in the Abington Park Northampton and the Rockingham Road Park in Kettering. We also hope to participate in the village events to mark the Coronation of the King.

At a time when so many organisations are finding it difficult to recover from the pandemic, it is good to see that the village continues to support one of its oldest community organisations, the Gretton Silver Band, established in 1877.

Peter Weston, President, Gretton Silver Band. [Peterweston41@aol.co.uk](mailto:Peterweston41@aol.co.uk)

# Friends of Gretton Recreation Ground

## SKATE PARK AND OUTDOOR GYM

The members of the Group are delighted to announce that the application to FCC Community Fund has been successful and a grant of £100,000 has been awarded towards the project. We are presently obtaining tenders for the work and will be consulting further on the final designs. The group is grateful to the Parish Council for making funds available out of the money already held for this purpose but there is still further fundraising required. Please support the group in their activities to raise the necessary funds and further details will be publicised shortly.



## FUN AND EXERCISE

Do you feel like some exercise? Inspired by our great sports people or just looking for a sociable activity on a summer evening? 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 – sessions recommence after Easter.

- Mondays 7.30 pm (except bank holidays) - Ladies Netball
- Tuesdays 7.30 pm – Tennis. Come and join a sociable evening of mixed tennis.
- Wednesdays 7.30pm – Fun and Fitness – This friendly adult group meets each Wednesday on the MUGA during the summer and autumn at 7:30pm. Multi-activities, all at a walking pace include football, hockey, basketball, rounders, frisbee and more. Sessions start after Easter and run through to October. Just £1 per week, please join us. Contact Tim Fox on e-mail: [bookthemuga@gmail.com](mailto:bookthemuga@gmail.com)

Come and give it a try – you might even want to come again!

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](mailto:bookthemuga@gmail.com) or find us on Facebook at Gretton Recreation Ground.

## BOOK THE MUGA

The MUGA is available to use for a range of sporting activities free of charge at any time not subject to pre-booking. 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](mailto:bookthemuga@gmail.com) or message on Facebook.

Some equipment is available to borrow for netball, basketball, volleyball, football 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 on e-mail: [bookthemuga@gmail.com](mailto:bookthemuga@gmail.com).

Tim Fox

# Gretton Sports and Social Club

## The King's Visit

We are pleased to announce that we have secured a visit from 'The King' during the Coronation Weekend celebrations! On Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May, Elvis impersonator Pete Webb returns to the building to entertain with his lip curling, hip shaking, Rock 'n' Roll routine. Elvis had us 'All Shook Up' and in a 'Fever' last summer so this will certainly be a show not to be missed!



In January and February, we hosted the first of what we intend to be our monthly quiz night, (January's quiz winners on the left.)

The next quiz is on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> March with a special Red Nose Day themed version.

Monday Nights are Bingo Night at Gretton Sports & Social Club, we thank our marvellous hosts Julie Powell & Terri Meechan for the brilliant work they do every week (photo on the right.) All stakes made on the night are returned in prize money so remember the more that play, the better the giveaway!



Friday Nights are usually Darts Night as we are home to both the Club and Odd Bods in the inter-village winter & summer leagues competing against the Blue Bell & Hatton Arms. While every side has some good players the games are played in social spirit. Thanks to Mark Hanford on behalf of all the sides for his efforts administering the league.



## Skittles Team

Gretton Sports & Social Club have a Wednesday night skittles team who are currently participating in the Kettering and District Winter league. Skittles is one of the oldest pub games in Northamptonshire and is still proving very popular with other establishments across the county who join us in the competition.

Lee Wright captains our winter team who despite only picking up two wins so far this season, continue to play every game with enthusiasm. Thanks to Lee for his efforts in organising our side each week. We have welcomed village residents Des Bishop and James Ross to our team this season who both started with victories in their opening games. Our vice-captain Marian Ward also has one of the highest scores in the league this season with 17. Well done all. Thanks also (in no particular order) to John Blamaire, Regina Clasper, Julie Hull, Eric Rossell and Chris Ward for their participation in continuing this fine village tradition. A massive thank you too to Martin and Michael Houseman who provide us with a splendid buffet on home matches which is very much the talk of the league.

This season comes to an end at the end of March. The winter league recommences in September however we'd also like to put a team into the Tuesday night summer league if we can find a captain to take on the team during the summer months. If anyone who would like to volunteer to captain our summer team or just generally to play for our very welcoming and friendly team, please contact Gretton Sports & Social Club on social media or Lee Wright on 07545 460729.

## Bowling Club

Carpet Bowling is a popular pass-time on Wednesday evenings in Gretton Village Hall. We start at 7pm, have a cuppa at 8ish and head off home at 9pm. During the summer months we also bowl outdoors at Woodsend in Corby.

Our club is quite informal and friendly with advice and assistance given to beginners. We have spare bowls to try bowling with, so why not come along next Wednesday evening and give bowling a try?

Marshall Ferguson 01536 770521



## Cricket Club

Gretton Cricket Club have kept themselves active over the winter months with weekly net practice on Wednesday evenings from 8pm at Rutland Cricket Centre, Caldicott. New players are always welcome.

Our season commences on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> May when our Saturday side will be looking to build on the success we had in the second half of last season.

We are also pleased to announce that we have a Wednesday side returning for the 2023 season, this is designed to be a social side with an emphasis on giving everyone a go and hopefully develop further players for our Saturday side.

Gretton Cricket Club will also be playing host to Weldon 3<sup>rd</sup> XI in 2023 so nearly every Saturday throughout the summer there will be some action on the Recreation Ground; so, grab a beer and lend us your support!

If anyone is interested in playing for either of our sides, please contact us - for Saturday's Rob Ellis on 07885 839 378 or for Wednesday's Michael Houseman on 07711 905 570.

# Easter Sunday Football

The Easter Sunday football match on the Recreation Ground is a village tradition that will return once again on 9<sup>th</sup> April. The match itself is a social game with all levels of skill, experience and fitness made welcome on the day. Anyone wishing to play is asked to bring both a red and white shirt as teams will be allocated on the day to be as evenly matched as possible.

Spectators are encouraged to come and watch the game which always proves entertaining.

Kick off will be at 12 noon; players to meet at the Recreation Ground at 11.30am.

Contact Lee Wright – 07545 460 729



*Action from last year's game.*

Gretton Life is the Parish Council Newsletter. It is published three times a year, approximately every four months. We feature news and information about local organisations and events. To maintain transparency and avoid unfair promotion we can only include articles from charitable or not-for-profit organisations.

The next newsletter will be published in late June and cover JULY, AUGUST, SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER 2023. If you would like to submit information for the next newsletter please get in touch with the editor before the deadline date **Monday 12 June 2023**; [yvette@reddingfamily.net](mailto:yvette@reddingfamily.net)

On the back page there are some dates for your diary. Please note this is not a complete list of everything that happens in this lovely, busy village – there just isn't room! I try my best to be accurate, but you are strongly advised to check all dates, times and venues with the organisers of each event!

# Dates for Your Diary

March		see page ...
Fri 3	Forget me not café at St James' Church, 11.00	11
Sat 4	Paddock Park Volunteer Group, 9.30	16
Mon 6, 13, 20, 27	Gretton Beavers, 17.45-18.45	7
Tues 7, 14, 21, 28	Gretton Poppies crochet club, 19.00	5
Tues 7	Village Lunch	12
Sat 11	Rita Refill van at The Hatton Arms car park, 10-11.15	17
Sun 12	Drama Production, 19.30, Village Hall, The Swearing Jar	13
Mon 13	Gretton Parish Council Meeting, 19.30	3
Tues 14	WI meeting and AGM, 19.30, Village Hall	14
Fri 17	Gretton Gardening Group, Village Hall, 19.30	17
Fri 17	Red Nose Day Quiz at Gretton Sports and Social Club	21
Sat 18	Gretton Quilting Group, 11.15-16.15, Village Hall	15
Fri 24	Local History Talk, 19.30 The Origins of the Medieval Village	14
April		
Sat 1	Paddock Park Volunteer Group, 9.30	16
Sun 2	Palm Sunday service at St James', 10.00	11
Tues 4	Village Lunch	12
Wed 5	Stations of the Cross service at St James', 10.00	11
Fri 7	Good Friday Reflections: Baptist Church, 10.15; St James', 14.00	10,11
Fri 7	Forget me not café at St James' Church, 11.00	11
Sun 9	Easter Day services: St James, 9.00; Baptist church, 10.15	11,10
Sun 9	Easter Sunday Football match, Recreation Ground, 12 noon.	23
Mon 10	Gretton Parish Council Meeting, 19.30	3
Tues 11	WI meeting, 19.30, Village Hall	14
Sat 15	Gretton Quilting Group, 11.15-16.15, Village Hall	15
Mon 17, 24	Gretton Beavers, 17.45-18.45	7
Mon 17, 24	Gretton Cubs, 19.00-20.30	7
Tues 18	Bridge Drive, Village Hall	12
Fri 21	Gretton Gardening Group, Village Hall, 19.30	17
May		
Tues 2	Village Lunch	12
Fri 5	Forget me not café at St James' Church, 11.00	11
Sat 6	Paddock Park Volunteer Group, 9.30	16
Sat 6	Cricket club season recommences	22
Sun 7	Coronation Big Lunch, Gretton Recreation Ground	Facebook page
Sun 7	'The King' Elvis impersonator at Gretton Sports and Social Club,	21
Mon 8	Gretton Parish Council Meeting, 19.30	3
Tues 9	WI meeting, 19.30, Village Hall	14
Mon 15, 22	Gretton Beavers, 17.45-18.45	7
Mon 15, 22	Gretton Cubs, 19.00-20.30	7
Fri 19	Gretton Gardening Group, Village Hall, 19.30	17
Sat 20	Gretton Quilting Group, 11.15-16.15, Village Hall	15
Fri 26	Local History Talk, 19.30, The Northamptonshire Film Archive Trust	14
June		
Fri 2	Forget me not café at St James' Church, 11.00	11
Sat 3	Paddock Park Volunteer Group, 9.30	16
Mon 5, 12, 19, 26	Gretton Beavers, 17.45-18.45	7
Mon 5, 12, 19, 26	Gretton Cubs, 19.00-20.30	7
Tues 6	Village Lunch	12
Mon 12	Gretton Parish Council Meeting, 19.30	3
Tues 13	WI meeting & summer party, Village Hall, 19.30	14
Fri 16	Gretton Gardening Group, Village Hall, 19.30	17
Sat 17	Gretton Quilting Group, 11.15-16.15, Village Hall	15
Fri 23 – Sun 25	Gretton Flower Festival	11