

GRETTON LIFE

Autumn/Winter 2023/2024



PUBLISHED ON BEHALF OF
GRETTON PARISH COUNCIL

From the Chair of the Parish Council

Hello and welcome to the Autumn/Winter 2023 edition of Gretton Life.

I am delighted to announce that Chrissie Watts has just joined the Parish Council as the new Clerk. No doubt Chrissie will introduce herself in the next edition of this magazine, but for now I would just like to say “welcome aboard”.

We are all looking forward to working with her and helping her settle into the role over the next few months. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Sara Golding, our outgoing Clerk, for the work she has done on our behalf in the last year, and we wish her well for the future.

Thanks are also due to our previous editor, Yvette Redding who has done a fantastic job of re-vamping the format of the magazine. We wish Yvette well in her future endeavours and appreciate all the hard work she did during her tenure. Thank you, Yvette.



In July Darren Dovey hosted the Gretton Resilience Plan event at the Village Hall, and thank you to Darren and all who attended. It was very kind of those who came forward and have offered to be involved. If you missed this opportunity but would like to know more or get involved, please get in touch with the Clerk and we will ensure you are included going forward.

The Gretton Good Neighbour Scheme continues to help the residents of the village. Don't forget, if you need some help or would like to be involved, please get in touch on 07518 613684 or Grettongoodneighbours@gmail.com.

The Highways Working Group has also been busy over the last few months so please do check out Steven's update in this magazine.

As Autumn draws in and the end of the year approaches, two of our biggest projects will be delivered at the Recreation Ground, namely the outdoor gym and the skate park. A lot of hard work has been undertaken by a great group of volunteers throughout these projects and I cannot thank them enough for all they have done. I know that there have been all types of pressures, but each and every one of you should be very proud of your achievements.

It remains for me to wish you and your loved ones a merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

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.

Chrissie Watts,
Clerk to Gretton Parish Council
Email: clerkgpc@btinternet.com
Mobile: 07517886604
Letters: GPC post-box, located at the front of the Village Hall

From the Editor

Hello everyone,

Welcome to the Autumn/Winter edition of Gretton Life.

WE NEED A NEW VOLUNTEER EDITOR!

Essentially you need to have sufficient time to email regular contributors to request articles, then format these into a newsletter layout. Once the newsletter is compiled you then liaise with the printing company and finally collect the printed copies, delivering them to the Parish Council Clerk.

It's a really interesting role, you will find out lots of things about the village and its bustling community!

If this is something you might like to do, please get in touch with the chair (Jacki Lilley), or the clerk to the parish council – their contact details are above. The deadline for the next edition is 8th January 2024.

Have a lovely Christmas and New Year everyone

Looking Back ...



These are the workers at Walis and Linnels factory in the village in the 1930s.

We have a copy of a Labour Certificate which allowed Lucy Coleman to start work there the day after her 13th birthday in 1913.

She had been a regular attender at school, otherwise she would have had to wait till she was 14 to start work. The factory, under the management of Mr Spendlove, made men's work clothes - overalls, dungarees etc.

Elisabeth Jordan
Gretton Local History Society

Gretton Traffic Committee

Since presenting the traffic plan to the village (some months ago now). The Parish Council and Members of the Traffic committee have had a number of meetings with representatives from North Northants Council. NNC have come to the village and looked at our proposals, walking round the village to assess their potential.

Whilst we have had good feedback from NNC and with some minor changes, they were quite positive. The downside is, as you may have guessed, finance. As with all road schemes it boils down to money. Some of the proposals have been added to the schedule of work at NNC, such as road markings, yellow and white lines and a dropped kerb at the school will be completed 'as and when resources are available'. Other items will require technical surveys or to go before different committees at NNC. Significantly, finance is the main factor in achieving most of the plan. It will take a number of years to fully implement everything. However, we will continue to press NNC to help us achieve our goals. We will also look to do fund raising and to obtain grants to help this.

The Traffic Committee has also been working with village volunteers and Northamptonshire Police to introduce Speed Watch in the village. You may have seen a number of speed check points in the village staffed by villagers in fluorescent vests. These points have been identified as places where speed has been an issue. A number of speeding vehicles have been identified, the owners of these vehicles will receive a letter from Northants Police. I know many people do not like speed cameras, however speeding is an issue in the village and it was the no. 1 concern in the recent survey. The speed checks will continue from time to time over the coming months. I would like to thank the speed watch volunteers and the Traffic Committee for freely giving their time.

Further updates will continue as we continue to work with NNC and Northants Police

Steven Gray
07979431016

Defibrillators



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.

Gretton Good Neighbours Scheme



To access the service simply call **07518613684**.

The telephone coordinator will be happy to arrange one of our registered volunteers to help you.

The telephone service is open between the hours of 9am and 7pm, 7 days a week. Please leave a message if we are unable to answer your call. We will always reply to your message within 24 hours.

What help is available?

Transport to appointments at the hospital, doctors, opticians, hairdressers, or dentists.

Household tasks such as changing light bulbs, replacing batteries, or moving small items of furniture.

Companionship for people who would like a cup of tea and a chat or maybe a game of Scrabble or cards either for regular visits or one-off occasions.

Support while recuperating from illness, with things like gardening, caring for pets, collecting prescriptions, or helping with shopping.

Help with writing letters or filling in non-legal forms, reading to people with visual impairment or support using email and the Internet.

Who can use the scheme? Help is available to all residents in Gretton who need it.

Is there a charge? The service is free to use.

How do I volunteer? We are always looking for more volunteers and would love to discuss with you how you could get involved. Simply call us on the number above, or email grettongoodneighbours@gmail.com

FORTHCOMING EVENTS – DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Board Games (open to all ages) All children to be accompanied by an adult –

Wednesday, 25 th October 2 pm – 4 pm

Venue – The School Room, Gretton Baptist Church

Craft Afternoon – Wednesday, 8 th November 2 pm – 4 pm

Venue – The School Room, Gretton Baptist Church

Gretton's very own Repair Shop/Skills café – Saturday, 25 th November 10 am – 1pm

More volunteers are required, so if you have a skill you would like to share and use, please get in touch.

Venue - Gretton Sports and Social Club

Remembrance Sunday, 12th November 2023 - To those who might otherwise be unable to attend, please contact us if you would like transport to the Village Green

Jackie Clark

Gretton Neighbourhood Watch

On Saturday 7th October between 10am and 2pm at the vilage Green in Gretton, Neighbourhood Watch (GNHW) and part of the Northamptonshire Rural Policing team and supported by Gretton Parish Council, the Traffic Management Group and Speed Watch Group launched a road safety initiative (Give Space be Safe) focussing on sharing the road safely with horses and their riders.



Gretton has an active equine community, almost everyday horses with adult and child riders use the roads, especially the High Street, Station Road and

Rockingham and Lyddington Roads. This initiative is one of many to improve road safety of all road users in the village, along with improved road signage, 20's Plenty and other traffic calming measures planned for the village which is part of the Neighbourhood Plan and the Traffic management Plan because of the 2022 Village Traffic Survey.

PC Brad Wilson arrived with the Beat Bus outside Lydia's Café. Trevor Smith (GNHW Coordinator) and Steve Gray (GNHW Deputy Coordinator) manned the bus handing out leaflets and car stickers and providing information on driving safely around horses and their riders as well as providing information on GNHW and recruiting new members. We were joined by two Police Volunteers on Horseback, an initiative by Northants Police as part of the Rural Action Group. We were also joined by two local riders and their lovely horses along with a Shetland pony accompanied by Julie who runs the local shop. Local children turned up and were happy to feed the horses with windfall apples supplied by Neighbourhood Watch. Local Councillors Jackie Lilley (Gretton Council Chair) Susan Husk and Rob Newby also turned up to support the event and meet the horses.

Thankfully the weather remained dry if not a little cool, eventually the sun managed to shine. Over 300 hundred leaflets were handed out to car drivers and pedestrians. Locals stopped and chatted to those present and petted the horses. Some new members were recruited to Neighbourhood Watch and information given to those curious about the scheme. If you are interested in joining GNHW please contact Trevor Smith and if you are interested in participating in future road traffic initiatives, please make contact via the Parish Council web site.

Most importantly the "Give Space be Safe" message was conveyed to all reminding road users of the five important steps when approaching a Horse on the road:

- 1) Slow Down to a Maximum of 10 mph.
- 2) Be patient, don't sound the horn or rev the engine.
- 3) Pass the horse wide and slow-at least two metres.
- 4) Drive away slowly.

There will be more road safety events in the future, watch this space and remember:

Give Space..... Be safe.



Lydia's Coffee Shop & Post Office



Delicious coffee, homemade cakes and scones, lunches and afternoon teas are all made with love and served with a smile at Lydias. Our managers Eileen, Kim, Carol and Donna and our amazing volunteers are all here to serve you from 10am until 4pm Monday to Saturday.

We also sell greetings cards, cold drinks, crisps, sweets and chocolate and do takeaways.

Lydias is a not-for-profit charity community Christian coffee shop open since 2007 and exists to serve the village. We could not run without our merry band of volunteers (to whom we are so grateful) and of course our wonderful customers. If you've not been in to Lydias yet come and visit us – we wouldn't be here without you.

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 working collaboratively to create a large scarecrow for the Chapel Harvest Festival. We would like to thank Peter Lloyd for inviting us to contribute to the Harvest Service and to all of our wonderful families who have donated food to be passed on to Corby Foodbank. We really appreciated your generosity.

As the Autumn season has arrived we are looking forward to exploring all that it has to offer. We will be collecting autumn treasures in the next few weeks and using these to create some wonderful sculptures and some of the children have already shared with us some Conker treasures that they have found with their families.

We have been practicing our cutting skills this term, and exploring the front garden by using our senses. We have been picking the vegetables that we had grown last term and snipping the lavender, rosemary and other herbs back. The children are looking forward to using these snipping's to create some sensory bags which we can take home to enjoy with our families.

We are looking forward to getting out and about in the local area with Nature Nursery sessions and hosting our first Christmas Stay and Play over the coming weeks.

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

The Autumn Term is in full swing at Gretton Primary School and we have definitely started the Year with a bang. We have welcomed new members of staff and 20 new Reception children and a happy harmony has settled over the school. This year we launched our new school values which the children decided upon during the last academic year. They wanted to focus on easy to follow principles that will help them in school life but also in life outside school and settled on Kindness, Trying our Best, Making Good Choices and Dreaming Big.



On Tuesday 26th September the school held its annual MacMillan Coffee morning raising in the region of £600 for this amazing cause. We were delighted to welcome parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles and friends of our children as well as some special visitors from the local community including our recently retired lunchtime assistants, Bet Ward and Margaret McMillan who were welcomed back like celebrities!

Our sports teams are already off to a successful start to the year. At the recent ESFA Small Schools Open Football Tournament at Kingswood Secondary School, our team finished second over all which means they qualify for the county finals which will take place in January. We are so proud of the sportsmanship displayed by all the children taking part.

Although it is early on in the year, we are always looking to the future. The window has already opened for applications for the September 2024 Reception cohort. Please take a look at the school's website www.grettonprimary.org for the dates and times of our opening mornings if you would like to come and have a look around the school and please spread the word about our lovely school in the wider community.

As always, the schools wants to play its part as part of the wonderful, wider Gretton community. We are grateful for the patience of our immediate neighbours during the busy morning drop off and afternoon pick up times as we know that parents parking near the school causes the roads to become congested. We are working with parents to remind them to be courteous when parking and to not leave engines idling whilst waiting. If any members of the community have any concerns, please address them to the school. We are always looking for volunteers to come and read with the children. If you would like to get involved please contact the school office on 01536 770366 to find out more.

Gretton Beavers and Cubs

1st GRETTON SCOUT GROUP



for ages 6 to 8

Mondays 5.45 to 6.45pm



for ages 8 to 10.5

Mondays 7.00 to 8.30pm

1st Gretton Scout Group is continuing to grow and build their skills for life having fun.

Our Beaver Colony for 6-8 year olds is currently full, but there will be spaces throughout the year as they transition to Cubs. Enquiries to grettonbeavers@gmail.com

Our Cub pack does have some spaces at the moment. Enquiries to gretton.cubs@hotmail.com

SCOUTPOST

Gretton Scout Group are pleased to announce that this year we are participating in the Glendon District Scout Post - which means that for a donation of 40p per card your cards can be delivered not only in Gretton and Rockingham - but Corby, Kettering, Desborough, Burton Latimer and most villages in the area .

We are grateful to The Cottage Salon, Gretton Stores and The Blue Bell for offering to host the post boxes.

Posting will be mid-November to mid-December with cards delivered mid-December .

We look forward to seeing you

Catrina
Group Chair

Gretton Art Club

NEW MEMBERS ARE VERY WELCOME!

We have now recommenced our get togethers after a summer recess.

These are hold on Monday afternoons in the Village Hall from 1.30pm to 3.30pm. Newcomers are especially welcome, whatever your experience. We can supply paper and materials for most media. Sessions are £5 each, or £8 when our tutor/mentor (local artist Jax Crewe) attends to help and inspire us.



Please contact Charlotte 01536 770803 for more information, or just drop by one afternoon to see what we get up to!

Andy Butterworth, Ann Craske and Charlotte Parkin.

Royal British Legion

Remembrance Sunday 12th November and Gretton RBL News

- 11.00am Service and wreath laying ceremony at the USAAF Spanhoe Airfield Memorial on the Harringworth to Laxton Road.

Period military vehicles on display.

- 3.00pm Gretton Baptist Chapel. Remembrance Day service followed **ROYAL BRITISH LEGION** Memorial on the Village Green for the laying of wreaths.



In the period prior to Remembrance Sunday door to door poppy sales will be made in Gretton, Harringworth and Laxton.

Poppies will be also be available from local businesses including public houses and shops. As ever I am extremely grateful to Dave Miller, Honorary Poppy Appeal organiser, for his dedicated hard work with this year's Appeal.

Laura Biggs from the 315 Carrier Group has informed me the stolen plaque in memory of the 10th Parachute Battalion has been reinstated onto the USAAF Spanhoe Airfield Memorial. Replacing the plaque was made possible by generous donations received.

The knitters and crocheters at Gretton Poppy's have been busy to put on the displays again around the village and at Spanhoe. Their work adds to the importance of Remembrance time. On behalf of our community thank you to everyone involved.

The RBL Womens Section Northamptonshire County Conference and Purse Presentation was held on Saturday 16th September at the library in Desborough. Although no representatives from Gretton attended they contributed to £4100.40 raised on the day.

The Legion is the nation's biggest armed forces charity providing care and support for our ex- service men/women and their families. The charity's work is encapsulated in its motto: "Live on - to the memory of the fallen and the future of the living".

Your continued support and generosity are so very welcome.

Shirley Fursdon

Gretton and District Royal British Legion Holding Branch

Telephone 770784

Baptist Church

We are just getting back into the swing of things at the Baptist Chapel. We are about to begin running a course on how to understand the relevance of the Bible as well as looking towards next year which is the bicentenary of the chapel. There was an earlier building but the current chapel was built in 1824 and we are planning different events throughout the year to celebrate. More information will be available nearer the time.

Our regular events are still running regularly. Each Monday there is a drop in at the chapel from 10am – midday. Everyone is very welcome just to come for tea or coffee and chat with whoever is there. Do join us if you are at a loose end.

Our regular services continue to be well supported and they are as follows:

Morning service every Sunday at 10.15am

Café service on the second service of each month

Everyone is always welcome to everything we do and will certainly receive a warm welcome.

Looking ahead to Christmas, our plans are uncertain at the moment although we will be holding services on Christmas eve and Christmas Day at 10.15.

We are a church which aims to share the love of Jesus with everyone. If anyone needs help in any way, we will always do what we can.

Rev Peter Lloyd

01536 772155

grettonbaptist@gmail.com



St James' Church

Within the life of the Church this part of the year is a mixture of lament and joy. There is the poignancy of remembering as we mark Remembrance Sunday and also as we grieve the loss of loved ones in our annual service 'A Night to Remember'. Lamenting gives us an opportunity to share our struggles with God and with one another. However, within the Christian faith lamenting eventually leads to joy. The journey from lament to joy isn't quick or easy but it is hopeful. As we head towards Christmas that joy comes into focus as we celebrate the coming of Jesus. We'd love for you to join us in both our lamenting and our joyful worship.

Special Services

A Night to Remember - Wednesday 29th November at 7pm
(a special short service for all who grieve the loss of a loved one.)

Christingle Service - Sunday 3rd December at 9am

Carols by Candlelight - Wednesday 20th December at 7pm

Carols around the Crib - Sunday 24th December at 4pm

Midnight Communion - Sunday 24th December at 11am



Our regular services are at 9am every Sunday and 10am every Wednesday. On the third Sunday of each month we hold a traditional service of Evensong at 6pm.

If you would like any further information about St James' Church, please email stjamesgretton@gmail.com.

With every blessing Paul
The Revd Paul Frost
St James' Church, Gretton
07910 200831

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 inhabitants of Gretton to use this facility to ensure it has a viable future at the heart of the village.

The parties do provide a significant contribution to the halls income and the committee are working hard to ensure that they cause as little distress to those living near the hall as possible. I do always respond personally to those in the village who contact me regarding noise from parties or other individual events. The committee review any ongoing issues at our monthly meetings, always committed to considering the problems encountered and will make the necessary decisions for the good of the village.

Following the issues around the party on 7 th October I need to give some details of the steps that have been decided since. The committee have spent several days in discussions about our immediate response and have provided our action plan to the Parish Council.

Last year we increased fees to out of village party hirers, doubling both the deposit and the hourly rate. We also reduced the party bookings to a maximum of two per month. To give us time to plan our future in more detail we have cancelled all parties for the rest of the year.

We have 17 regular hirers who use the hall for a variety of activities, and it is important that the hall remains available for them. We accommodate everything from mums and tots to indoor bowls, including cubs and beavers, an art club, WI, Zumba, Yoga, Archery, gardening club, sewing groups, Model railway meetings, Parish Council meetings, a monthly village lunch and Bridge days.

The parties enable us to offer our regular hirers a lower rate for their activities. I was at the village hall on Saturday from 7 pm until the hall was locked at 11.30.

The police were a great help in dealing with the numbers involved, I have been in discussions with them since and their advice has been very helpful. I would like to thank the members of the Village Hall Management Committee who are all volunteers and give so much time to support the hall for the village and maintain it in good order.

BEQUEST TO HALL

On a more positive note, I am delighted to share the information about a generous bequest from the estate of villager, Jeff Ward. This bequest is a most wonderful gift and will enable the committee to ensure that the hall is kept in good order for some time to come.

I am looking forward to the possibility of a new efficient heating system to make using the hall a less chilling experience for 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 coming months are as follows,
Tuesday 3rd October
Tuesday 7 th November

Tuesday 5 th December – The annual Christmas Lunch
Tuesday 2 nd January
Tuesday 6th February

COMMUNICATIONS

Helen Heywood has been managing our communications for a while now and we are grateful for her efforts on behalf of the hall, keeping the village informed about upcoming events.

THE BRIDGE DRIVE

The next bridge drive will be on 17th October 2023. This will be advertised, and we hope to have a good response. For further information please contact Helen Heywood, email:

Villagehallgretton@outlook.com

BOOKINGS

Richard Haller took over at the beginning of May and we are delighted to welcome him as a member of the team. I hope he will enjoy being a member of the committee. The Contact details are listed below.

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 £100.00 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

Bookings - Richard Haller- Mob: 07391 895078 email:

bookingsGVH@outlook.com

200 Club – Barrie Edwards

Email: Edwards_gretton@yahoo.co.uk

Bridge Drives – Helen Heywood

Email: villagehallgretton@outlook.co.uk

Gretton Village Hall Entertainments

Our recent concert by Canadian Dan McKinnon was hugely enjoyed by all. With a strong baritone voice and exceptional guitar technique he entertained us with many personal stories and anecdotes from his life in Halifax, Nova Scotia as well as enlightening us on the history of the Canadian Maritimes.

We are always on the lookout for new music or drama productions to present, please contact me on 01536 802381 if you have any ideas for future events.

Thanks for your support,

Andy Butterworth

Gretton Local History Society

After a fascinating talk from Ros Willatts explaining the history of Launde Abbey we continued our Village Hall meetings with Stephen Barker and his account of the typical roles women undertook during the English Civil War. The results of his research into several specific women (of high as well as low status in society) were quite remarkable. The meeting concluded with our AGM, reviewing activities, accounts etc. and thanking Elisabeth for her steadfast work throughout the year.

Please note that society membership is now £10 per annum for all as we have decided to end our concessionary rate (the majority of members being of a certain age!) All of the current committee agreed to remain in post, but we would be delighted if anyone else would like to join us.

The next open meeting in the Village Hall will be at 7.30pm on November 24th. Sarah Bridges from the Northamptonshire Record Office will explain the general scope of records and material available for research, with some examples specific to Gretton.

Open meetings are free to members (£10 per annum), but all visitors are very welcome at £3 per talk.

Your committee

Sandy Brown, Andy Butterworth, Ann Craske, Elisabeth Jordan, Ian Preston and Margaret Trenwith

Gretton Women's Institute

Gretton is glad to be once again holding regular monthly meetings after the summer break. Members have already enjoyed a talk by a Royal Protection Officer giving a vivid description of some of his more entertaining experiences, and we are looking forward in the coming months to a Games Night and to hearing about wartime Land Girls.



During the month the knitting group meets to knit and chat and we have plans for local visits. Then there will be the Christmas Party, always an excellent affair.

So we continue to have a varied programme and sociable gatherings and we should be delighted to welcome new members to join us. Do come along as a guest to the Village Hall at 7.30 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month, or contact Kathleen or myself at any time.

Pat Triffitt 770311

Kathleen Brotherton 771749

Gretton Quilting Group

We are a group of 24 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!

If you would like to come and join us to brush up on an old skill, learn new or share your skills you will be very welcome.



Our group have quilted this wall hanging called *Covid Memories*, which now hangs in the village hall and has attracted some very positive comments.

2024, our next challenge is to complete a quilt for the raffle at next year's Macmillan Coffee Morning.

We are also planning a trip to Sleaford quilt Show.

This year we have continued to work on a mini quilt (right) based on many different quilting techniques. We are planning to show some of them at next June Flower Festival.



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.

Please come along and join us to see what we do. December we will be out enjoying a Christmas Meal at the Hatton Arms. Otherwise, we will be in the Village Hall as usual on each 3rd Saturday. Visitors are always welcome. Happy stitching!

Gretton Quilting Group,
Contact Hilary 07867 381 599

Gretton Social Sewing Group

In June the group participated in the Gretton Flower Festival with an entry entitled the June Flower Fairy. The flower fairy books were written and illustrated by Cicely Mary Barker in 1923. This year was the centenary of their publication and as the theme this year was Art to Flowers we decided to make a fairy dress and decorate it with hand made fabric flowers. The whole group participated in the event and we were so pleased with the result.

We are a group of more than thirty enthusiastic and friendly sewers that meet twice a month in Gretton Village Hall. Our get-togethers on Thursdays run from 10am until 3 pm and on Saturdays from 11.15am until 4.15 pm. The cost for each session is £10 which includes free tea, coffee and biscuits, and occasionally, even cake!

As our name implies, we are very much a social group who share a common interest in all aspects of sewing, be it by hand or machine. Some of our members are quilters, some are dressmakers, some make bags, others make craft items, do patchwork, hand embroider or cross-stitch. There is always someone on hand to help with projects and give advice if needed.

We have irons, ironing boards, extension leads, an overlocker and threads which are all available to use as well as cutting tables, cutting mats and rulers. All you need to bring is your chosen project and sewing machine if you are using one. (Sewing machines do need to be PAT tested but this can be arranged for you.)

Our meeting dates are varied this year, but if you would like to be part of this lovely group then please get in touch for further details. You will always be assured of a very warm welcome.

Gretton Social Sewing Group,
Contact Bridget Haller 07796 793191

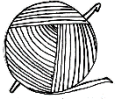


Crochet Club Gretton

The group was set up in August 2022, in response to requests for people to learn to crochet in Gretton. The initial aim was to learn to make flowers for a big display at the flower festival, which was successful.

All levels welcome from beginner upwards

**Crochet
Club
Gretton**



Tuesday evenings 7-9pm
School room at
Gretton Baptist Church

Contact Karen 07722086339

After the initial enthusiasm, the group has settled down to about 12-15 regulars. There is always someone who is able to teach/advise/guide with crochet. Scarves, hats and flannels have been made for the Link To Hope Shoebox Appeal, blankets, bags and soft toys for personal use.

We are all at different stages of learning and would like to encourage anyone who would like to learn to come along and give it a go. Similarly if you are more experienced or just a bit rusty, but would like to meet people who understand the fascination of yarn, hooks and patterns, do come along.

Gretton Paddock Park

We carried out the annula hay cut a little earlier this year, which helped as the growth was still quite vigorous and therefore easier to cut. We also spread it over two days so in theory it should have been exhausting, but it wasn't!

Although we had just enough volunteers one or two more would have made it that much easier. The good weather certainly helped. Doing the annual hay cut and removing the cut growth reduces the soil's fertility and the vigorous grasses, allowing more wildflowers to grow.



In October we cleared some of the excess vegetation in the pond, maintaining a good ongoing environment for wildlife.

And, from autumn onwards we will remove some of the overgrown vegetation along the perimeter of the High Street to make it less dense, encouraging more wildflowers to grow.

Volunteering

We have a small, dedicated group of volunteers enjoying the variety of activities, and also the friendly banter that goes with it. If you are able to help please remember that our work mornings are on the first Saturday of each month, any time between 9.30am and 12.30pm. Poor weather conditions may mean we have to move it to the following Saturday. You do not need to make a regular commitment and it is a very nice way to meet new friends.

If you would like to help but at a different time please let me know. We also meet once a month on the third Wednesday, at 8pm in the Hatton Arms, why not join us for a drink and hear what we are doing.

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. We are currently developing a computer assisted approach to help our plant life monitoring.

Bob Dobson
Paddock Park Secretary – 07772789907

Gretton Gardening Group

Hello everyone, it's November and I can tell it's getting late in the year as the butter in our dish is getting harder to spread and we have had condensation on all our windows. The garden at home has only just begun to show signs of closing down, but considering what another awful gardening year we have had, with the heatwave and tropical rainstorms added in to our usual unpredictable English weather, I don't really think we can complain too much.

We have been planting daffodils outside the house and would ask if you might be able to plant daffs and tulips, together with any other spring flowering bulbs, especially if you have a verge or grass strip outside your property, and, if not, persuade a neighbour or friend to do something to brighten the place up. If all else fails, plant up a basket and hang it in a prominent position, not forgetting your civic duties under Health and Safety of course. You can also plant hyacinths, and, although it is too late for Xmas why not try them for Mothers Day, or just to look pretty on any day. Wallflowers and winter bedding plants are still available and these too could bring a lot of cheer in the bleaker months ahead. Dahlias can be left out if covered well, but it is best to dig them up and hang the tubers upside down in a frost free area. Similarly, lift any begonias dry them ready to store with the dahlias.



The recent winds have helped turn our deciduous trees into skeletons, but even this has a good side, think of all that leaf mould you can gather and compost in a holed bin bag for next year.

The cooler days are ideal for either moving, dividing or planting shrubs, although containerised plants can be set any time you like. Many shrubs are ready for pruning too, but don't throw the cuttings away as they are a good source of free plants to increase your own garden or maybe swap what you haven't got with someone else. The cuttings need to be about pencil thick and still "bendy" without snapping. (Mr. Google has loads of info on this subject, as do those You Tubers)

The vegetable garden also has some work to be done, sow some peas such as "Feltham First" to overwinter for an early crop next year and also "Aquadulce" broad beans, garlic and onion sets. Tomatoes, onion and chillie seeds can be sown around New Year on a warm windowsill or greenhouse. If you have any top fruit trees it is often a good idea to put greasebands around them to deter any overwintering pests. Pruning out any dead, diseased or criss crossing branches will often rejuvenate your trees giving space and light to deter pests and encourage fruiting. Fruit bushes can also be pruned and the cuttings put in a well drained deep pot for planting out later next year. Gooseberry bushes can be planted now along with any container or bare rooted bushes.

Finally, try and find some time to clean the greenhouse glass and tidy up the garden generally, but don't be too tidy in the garden as the wildlife is looking for somewhere to overwinter. You may have seen the advert from the RSPB which says " if you build a home-they will come". If you have to have a bonfire please check that wildlife, especially hedgehogs, haven't decided to nestle down for the winter.

If you are interested in gardening and would like to join the Gretton Garden Group, we meet every third Friday evening at the Village Hall and have a range of speakers or demonstrations

together with a garden visit or two. The doors open from 7.30. when you can find a seat, with a cuppa if you wish, ready for an 8.00 start. Sorry, we don't serve alcohol, but you are welcome to bring your own.

Further information can be found by typing "grettongardeninggroup" in to your server where an up to date list of events from January may be found. Alternatively you can call by phone (while we still have them) and speak to Alan or Julie on 01536 772575.

Happy gardening and an enjoyable Christmas, from the Committee members.

Alan Waterman 01536 772575

Gretton Weather Watch

As I sit waiting for the promised hot spell in October I thought about the recent weather. We have already had higher maximum and average temperatures in September and I'm sure the amount of rain in July was no surprise!

Janette Hall

janettehall1@sky.com

2023	Monthly rainfall	Max temp / °C	Min temp / °C	Ave temp / °C
March	61.20mm	15.8	-2.3	8.6
April	65.82mm	18.3	-3.4	8.4
May	29.69mm	21.9	2.2	12.2
June	49.07mm	30.2	5.3	16.6
July	97.42mm	29.2	8.0	16.0
August	51.98mm	27.7	8.0	16.2

Greener Gretton

Unfortunately, it has not proved financially viable for Rita the Refill Van to continue visiting Gretton.

Rita 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, and in Oundle on some Tuesdays.

For up to date information you can follow [rita_the_roadster](#) on Instagram.



We note that Corby Council has a group working on a Loyal Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan. We have expressed our opinion that we need safe routes from Gretton to Corby and Priors Hall.

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.

You can contact us on Facebook - Greener Gretton group, and Gretton News and Views. You can also contact us by email at 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!

In April, we organised a very successful village litter pick, with the help and support of the Parish Council and the Village Hall. We will be organising another village litter pick in October/November.



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 - by dropping off at 7 School Road, with a note of your name, or contact me via Facebook messenger, or Gretton Wombles Page, and I can collect.

Contact me via Facebook messenger, or Gretton Wombles Page.

Alison Merricks

Gretton Silver Band

Gretton Silver Band have settled on Saturday 9th December for the Christmas concert this year, 7:30pm start.

Tickets will be £5 and £4 concessions with Teas and Coffee

We are also planning to play carols round the village on Sunday 10th from 10am and on the Sunday 17th from 10am, Weather permitting.

Lloyd Preston
01536 297021 or 07890262902
L_I_Preston@hotmail.com

The Travers Foundation

Volunteer to make a difference to local young people.

Life's unfair for young people trying to make their mark in sports, music, and the arts. They can be at a tremendous disadvantage. There are no apprenticeships, government grants, or workplace training programmes. Often, the only funding source is family or friends, or nothing.



That's unfair, and this is the motivation behind **The Travers Foundation**.

We are a **team of volunteers**, which means every penny we raise goes directly towards helping local young people from Leicestershire, Northamptonshire, and Rutland.

The Travers Foundation was founded in 2012, and since then, we have given more than £300,000 to fund over 250 young people.

- 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 to launch their **acting, filmmaking, and production** careers.

Can you help us?

Volunteer – You can help us to support local young people. Interested? Please get in touch.

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. Would you like to help?

Trustee – We're looking for new trustees to help us to make a difference. If you are passionate about helping young people in Sports, Music, or The arts, contact us for an informal chat.

The Travers Foundation

www.travers-foundation.org.uk

contact@travers-foundation.org.uk

Gretton Netball Club



At Gretton Netball we are a friendly, non-league bunch of players who play purely for fun!

Some of the members like Cher joined the games when they first began in 2012. Many more joined along the way.

We welcome everybody old and new, of all standards, even those who are new to the game.

We ensure we have fun while getting fit in the process. Ladies of all ages are welcome but must be over 18 years.

We play at the MUGA, Gretton Recreation Ground. Our sessions run on Mondays at 07.25pm, April-November (weather permitting), and cost just £1.00 per session. First session is free for new members.

We also have a Gretton Netball WhatsApp group where we share news and sessions updates. Should you wish to join in or find out more please get in touch!

Cinzia & Cher (07906 566090)

Friends of Gretton Recreation Ground

SKATE PARK AND OUTDOOR GYM UPDATE

The construction of the new facilities is moving ahead and it is expected that both the skate park and the outdoor gym will be completed by December. We are very excited to see this new equipment taking shape and look forward to many years of activity and fun for users of all ages and abilities. The Group is planning an opening event as well as introductory and taster sessions for those who wish to try the equipment or look for a new activity.



The Group is grateful to the Parish Council for supporting these projects and for the continuing encouragement in improving the facilities available to the whole community.

FUN AND EXERCISE

The winter months will soon be upon us, but looking forward to the better weather in the spring, we would like to encourage participation in the great FUN activities that are organised on the Recreation Ground and MUGA. Ladies Netball, Tennis, Fun and Fitness sessions all aimed at adults with a range of abilities – or even none at all!

More details will be published in the New Year.

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.

HOW TO 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 or message on Facebook

Netball, Basketball, Volleyball, Football, Tennis - Some equipment available to borrow



Let us know when you want to use the facility and provide feedback on bookthemuga@gmail.com

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 by email: bookthemuga@gmail.com

Tim Fox

Gretton Cricket Club 2023



Gretton Cricket Club continued the long tradition of cricket in our village for another season during 2023. We were pleased to expand this season to include a midweek XI in the Geddington Midweek League alongside our Northamptonshire Cricket League Division 9 team.

Coming off a successful 2022 campaign, results this year were less positive overall, as we finished 8th, but some highlights shone through. Particular mention must go to the individual performances with the bat of wicketkeeper-batter Liam

Park who scored a total of 836 runs at an average of 35 across all competitions this season. An honourable mention also must go to James Bates who, before injury finished his season, scored 309 runs at an average of 34.

With the ball, Michael Houseman was the leading wicket taker across all competitions with 39 at an average of 22. Spinner Harry Pavitt was close behind with 34 wickets at an impressive average of 14. Honourable mentions go to the impressive youngsters Stan Roberts and Kaden Polley who finished with 20 wickets each, along with the slightly less young captain Rob Ellis who also ended with 20.

Wicketkeeper Liam Park topped the catching charts with 16, followed by Rob Ellis (9), Fraser Wright, Harry Pavitt, Stan Roberts (5), Freddie Clarke, Stu Mason, Dale Thomson and James Bates (4).

The team performance of the year was the victory at Finedon Dolben 4ths. Having posted a good 228-6, Gretton bowled out the hosts for 15, a record low in the modern records. Harry Pavitt lead the record breaking day with career best figures of 6 overs, 2 maidens, 6 wickets for just 5 runs.

To finished we'd like to sent our heartfelt thanks to all those who make it possible for our club to keep running. Fraser Wright and Steve Ellis for all their work on the wicket and outfield, among many other things! Teresa Baines and Terri Meechan for the amazing quality of cricket tea and scoring, both of which are highly above the standard that our play deserves! Another thank you to both captain's Rob Ellis and Michael Houseman for running the Saturday and midweek sides. Finally, huge thanks to our regular umpire, club legend and stalwart, Bert Woolley.

We are a welcoming, inclusive and sociable club. Any new players over the age of 13, with any level of experience are always welcome. Please contact us through Facebook if you are interested.



Gretton Sports and Social Club

**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.

Our AGM was held on Tuesday 10th October at which the existing committee was re-elected to serve for the year ahead. We still have the ability to co-opt additional members onto our committee therefore if there is anyone who would like to be more involved and contribute towards the

successful running of our club then the committee would be delighted to hear from you.

New members are welcome to join at any time, our yearly membership fee is currently £10 per adult and £5 for seniors. Membership is required as a term of our alcohol licence however each member has the ability to sign in two adult guests during any visit so please do remember this if you have visitors or simply wish to introduce new people to our club. As a visiting guest you may be signed in on up to three occasions in a single year before a full membership will be required.

There's plenty going on at the club over the next few months with the Winter Skittles League returning on alternate Wednesday's from mid-November onwards whilst our weekly Monday Night Bingo remains ever popular. At weekends we have three large screens displaying live sport so whether you're into football, rugby, F1, golf or anything else we always have plenty on offer. Other notable events in the coming months are:

November:

Sat 11 th – Traya Buns (Karaoke & Adult Games)

Fri 17 th – Children in Need Fundraising Quiz Night

December

Sun 17 th – Children's Christmas Party

Mon 25 th – Christmas Day Open 12 till 2.30pm

Sun 31 st – New Year's Eve Disco Party

Lookout for more events announced via our Facebook page facebook.com/grettonssc

Bowling Club

Carpet Bowls 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



Welcome to Gretton!

If you are new to the village of Gretton and looking for activities to get involved in, here is a list of some of the regular meetings held by local groups. Activities and meetings may be weekly, fortnightly or even monthly. This is not an exhaustive list and changes do occur, so please do check with the relevant organiser that their meetings are going ahead.

There are lots of commercial organisations and activities that take place regularly in the village. We don't advertise them in this publication; however, Gretton News and Views on Facebook is a good place to find out more information.

	DAYTIME	EVENINGS
MONDAYS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baptist Church Drop-in • Art Club 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Netball • Beavers and Cubs • Bellringing • Bingo at GSSC
TUESDAYS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Village Lunches 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tennis • Women's Institute • Crochet club
WEDNESDAYS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St James' church service 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bowls Club • Folk Club
THURSDAYS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Sewing Group 	
FRIDAYS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sparkle Tots Toddler Group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local History Group • Gardening Group
SATURDAYS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paddock Park Volunteers • St James' coffee morning & soup kitchen • Quilting Group • Social Sewing Group 	
SUNDAYS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baptist Church service • St James' Church Service 	

Dates for Your Diary

November		see page ...
Tues 7 th	Village Lunch	11
Sun 12 th	Remembrance Sunday	9
Mon 13 th	Parish Council Meeting	2
Fri 24 th	Our County Record Office – Local History Society	12
December		
Sun 3 rd	Christingle Service	10
Mon 4 th	Christmas Village Lunch	12
Sat 9 th	Gretton Silver Band Christmas Concert	18
Mon 11 th	Parish Council Meeting	2
January		
Tues 2 nd	Village Lunch	12
Mon 8 th	Parish Council Meeting	2
February		
Tues 6 th	Village Lunch	12
Mon 12 th	Parish Council Meeting	2

Gretton Life is the Parish Council’s 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 February and cover events happening from MARCH 2024 to JULY 2024. If you would like to submit information for the next newsletter, please contact the new editor before the deadline date **Monday 15th JANUARY 2024**.

On this 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!