

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	Baptist Church Drop-in Art Club	Netball Beavers and Cubs Bellringing Bingo at GSSC
TUESDAYS	Village Lunches	Tennis Women's Institute Crochet club
WEDNESDAYS	St James' church service Bowls Club	Folk Club
THURSDAYS	Social Sewing Group	
FRIDAYS	Sparkle Tots Toddler Group	Local History Group Gardening Group
SATURDAYS	Paddock Park Volunteers St James' coffee morning & soup kitchen Quilting Group Social Sewing Group	
SUNDAYS	Baptist Church service St James' Church Service	

GRETTON LIFE

SPRING 2024



PUBLISHED ON BEHALF OF
GRETTON PARISH COUNCIL

From the Chair of the Parish Council

Hello,

Here we are at the start of a new year. As always, it was a joy to be in the village at Christmas. The Advent Windows were delightful, and along with the various Christmas-themed events, brought a feeling of magic to the holiday period.



I am pleased to see that the skate park and the outdoor gym are now fully installed on the Recreation Ground. Please feel free to make use of them. Due to the awful weather recently, it has not been possible to complete the landscaping around them, but I know that the team will complete this work as soon as they can. Look out for advertisements for the official opening event later in the year. Once again, a big “thank you” to all those who have worked on the project and made it possible.

I would like to remind you about the Gretton Good Neighbours Scheme. The team are currently planning the Skills Cafes and Craft Events for the year ahead. Please come along and support them. Don't forget that if you know of anyone who needs some help you can contact the team on 07518 613684 or Grettongoodneighbours@gmail.com. Discretion is assured, and the volunteers are keen to help as much as possible.

The traffic management team are continuing their work to make the village safer. They are hoping to install another TVAS camera soon, and a further one to follow later in the year. The team presented some of their traffic calming solutions to NNC in the last quarter of the 2023 and we are hopeful that some of these will be implemented this year – but this is dependent on the work schedules of NNC. Thank you to those involved who continue to work hard to make the village safer for us all.

Best wishes

Jacki Lilley

Chair, Gretton Parish Council

And Easter offers us the same hope, doesn't it? We're reminded every Easter Sunday that the Son did rise again. That the Good Shepherd brought new life to his flock. That the storms could never overcome the One who walks on water. My hope is that your Easter will be a blessed time, with, perhaps, coat-free walks amongst the sheep at sunrise. And maybe, during that time, you might meet with your Good Shepherd, walking with you!

As always, you are always welcome to rejoice in the joy of Spring, at your Church in Gretton.

Revd Joe Griffiths - Curate - St James' Church

Gretton Good Neighbours



The Gretton Good Neighbours Scheme (GGNS) is a service provided by local volunteers to offer practical support and assistance to residents in Gretton.

The service provides help with the following:

Transport to appointments or to help with shopping.
Household Tasks e.g. changing light bulbs, replacing batteries

Companionship for people who would like to share a cup of tea and a chat.

Support while recuperating from illness with shopping, collecting prescriptions, gardening.

Help with using the internet, writing letters, reading to people with visual impairment.

The scheme holds events throughout the year, including Skills Cafés and Craft Workshops.

In 2023 the scheme held 3 Skills Cafes, a Crafting Workshop and a family board games tournament. Volunteers made 34 journeys to various appointments with Gretton residents, cleared a house, tidied a garden and delivered health samples, parcels and letters.

GGNS has a number of events planned throughout 2024 and will continue to offer and provide assistance to Gretton residents. Look out for our flyers around the village.

WE are always looking for volunteers and would love to discuss with you how to get involved. For more information just call us on **07518613684** or email grettongoodneighbours@gmail.com

St James' Church

Things to look out for at St James'...

Regular Services

09:00-10:15 every Sunday - Church Service

09:00-10:15 every first Sunday of the month - All-Age (Family) Service

10:00-11:00 every Wednesday - Holy Communion

Events

11:00-12:00 every first Friday of the month -

Forget-me-nots

10:30-13:00 16th March and 11th May -

Coffee Mornings

All-day - 28th, 29th & 30th June - Flower Festival



Youth

17:45-18:45 every Monday (at the Village Hall or Church) - Beavers

10:00-11:30 every Friday (at the Village Hall) - Sparkletots

09:00-10:15 - 31st March (Easter Sunday) - Easter Egg Hunt

Easter Services

14:00-15:00 - 29th March (Good Friday) - The Last Hour

09:00 - 10:15 - 31st March (Easter Sunday) - Easter Sunday Service

Reflection

It was a winter of firsts for us in the Vicarage. Our first winter in Gretton. Our first winter at St James' Church (with intermittent heating!). And our first winter in a countryside village.

We were struck by a few things - mainly weather-related! Firstly, we were struck by how cold, wet and windy it got; we questioned how much more of a battering the Vicarage could take. We were also struck by how hardy the sheep were in the field next to us! But, the thing that struck me most was how dark the nights were, and how late the sunrise was. Some days, with three children waking up early, I questioned whether the sun would ever rise!

As we look forward to Spring, and to Easter, we're warmly reminded of how winter is but only a season. The weather will change bringing with it warmer days. The sheep in the field will take their coats off, and some may even have lambs. And the dark mornings will soon be replaced with bright, shining starts to the day.

From the Clerk to the Parish Council

Hi All

My name is Christina Watts (Chrissie) and I am the new clerk for Gretton Parish Council.



I started this role in September and I have so much to learn. I live in Corby but have very close ties to the village with family living here. I am sure some people will already know me from various event over the years.

I am enjoying the variety of the role and I hope to be of service to the Village community.

If anybody needs any help in the reporting of any issues within the village from Potholes, to Street Lights, from litter to flooding please do not hesitate to get in touch with me. If I am not able to help I will always try to find a "man who can"

My telephone number is 07517 886604

My email address is clerkgpc@btinternet.com

Chrissie

From the Editor

I hope you enjoy this edition of the newsletter.

Thank you to all our contributors – there is a lot to look forward to in the village over the coming months.

If you would like to submit an article for the next edition please do get in touch. As the newsletter is a Parish Council publication, we can only include information from not-for-profit, community organisations.

The next copy will be the Summer 2024 edition, covering July to November 2024 and the deadline for submitting articles is Monday 3 June.

Julie

grettonlife@gmail.com (please note new email address)

Looking Back

These are members of the Baptist congregation about 1910.



The Chapel is celebrating its bicentenary this year, but prior to 1824 was making use of a cottage at the top of Clay Lane as its Preaching House for Protestant Dissenters. There was a flourishing Non-conformist community in Gretton from the late 17th century.

The cottage was purchased for £52-10s-9p in 1770. The cost of the new building in 1824 was £450 and it was licensed as a Place of Religious Worship for Protestant Dissenters on 15th January 1925.

Elisabeth Jordan
Gretton Local History Society

Gretton Weather Watch

In recent weeks there has been much talk about flooded roads around the village so the rainfall column may be the most read this quarter. The average rainfall for Northamptonshire has been added as a reference (www.weatherandclimate.com).

Janette Hall, janettehall1@sky.com

2023	Monthly rainfall/mm	Northants average/mm	Max temp / °C	Min temp / °C	Ave temp / °C
March	61.20	45.62	15.8	-2.3	8.6
April	65.82	48.38	18.3	-3.4	8.4
May	29.69	69.36	21.9	2.2	12.2
June	49.07	79.7	30.2	5.3	16.6
July	97.42	67.4	29.2	8.0	16.0
August	51.98	78.35	27.7	8.0	16.2
September	68.10	42.73	31.5	7.5	16.7
October	168.93	64.98	23.7	0.0	11.9
November	85.62	59.65	14.4	-4.0	7.3
December	133.31	59.6	13.6	-3.4	6.9

North Northants Community First Responders needs you!



Hilary has finally retired as your local First Responder, so we need YOU!

Hilary will continue to be a trustee of the group and will also remain AED Lead (defibrillators) across the area for the time being. So not fully retired, just no longer operational.

We are now recruiting in Gretton. Could you save a life? And support your local community?

Community First Responders are trained by East Midlands Ambulance Service (EMAS). This training enables you to respond to 999 and 111 allocations being dispatched by EMAS. Allocations will mostly be within a 3 to 5 mile range of your base. We work solo from home, but can also buddy with others on a shift. On scene you will assess the patient by completing: a full history and complete a set of observations. You will arrive before the ambulance, so will have supported the patient and their family/friends until the ambulance crew arrives as well as start care and gather vital information to handover to the ambulance crew. All of this activity will be covered in your training by EMAS.

You will be expected to log on for a minimum of 16 hours a month around your own commitments, support fundraising events for a minimum of 15 hours a year and help with first aid training and other events; E.G in schools, Christmas light switch ons, mayor's events, Dingley races to name just a few. This is as much as you feel you can give and the events that you prefer. At such events you will be supported by other CFR's.



I have had an enormous amount of satisfaction from being able to support families in their greatest time of need.

If you would like to discuss joining the group please contact
admin@northnorthantscfr.nhs.uk
You will be welcomed with open arms.

Hilary Lunt



Gretton Paddock Park

Over the autumn and winter we have been carrying out some woodland management, pollarding a goat willow to remove a lot of deadwood, coppicing hazel and thinning out the growth close to the iron railings overlooking the High Street.



Severe storms brought some damage to one or two of the mature trees.

The large fallen branches were cut up and the smaller branches, together with other accumulated cuttings, chipped and then spread onto the footpaths by our volunteers.

In anticipation of the extension to the housing development we planted further hedging saplings to extend the screen we are creating.

With winter out of the way let's enjoy the spring flowers we have in the Paddock Park. Daffodils and violets followed by cowslips and bluebells.



If you would like to help maintain the Paddock Park join us on the first Saturday of each month from 9.30 for 2 to 3 hours. If you cannot manage a Saturday but would like to help please give me a ring and we can discuss a more convenient time and the job(s) you could do.

We meet at the Hatton Arms on the third Wednesday at 8.00pm to discuss our plans and the 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

Royal British Legion

The 2023 Gretton and District Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal which includes Harringworth and Laxton raised £3402.37.



To everyone who donated thank you for your incredible generosity.

Also thanks go to local businesses for their support and to all collectors who helped with the door to door Poppy Sales. I am grateful to Fiona and Ami Chapman and their team of knitters and crocheters for putting on amazing displays around Gretton and at the USAAF Spanhoe Airfield Memorial, well done to you all. Remembrance Day Services at Gretton Baptist Chapel and Spanhoe were both well attended despite the inclement weather.

Finally I thank Dave Miller Honorary Poppy Appeal organiser for his dedication and sterling service so the Royal British Legion can continue to support the armed forces community past and present.

Shirley Fursden
Gretton and District Royal British Legion
Holding Branch
9 Southfield Road, Gretton
Telephone 01536 770784

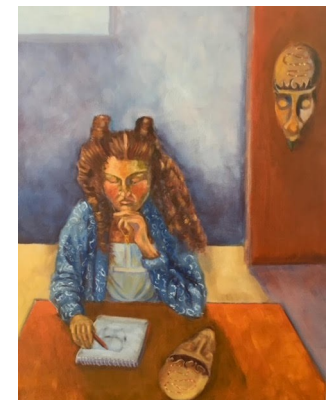
Gretton Art Club

Our sessions are held in the Village Hall on Monday afternoons from 1-30 until 3-30pm, and allow the opportunity for anyone to develop their artistic leanings.... no matter in what media and with what experience.

If you're not sure come along to any session and have a chat (and cup of tea!).

Beginners are especially welcome as we have a vast range of materials available free of charge. We cover our costs by charging £5 per session and £8 when our tutor (local artist Jax Crewe) is with us.

Please contact Charlotte on 01536-770803 if you have any questions; looking forward to seeing some new faces.



Andy, Ann and Charlotte.

Gretton History Society

We try to provide a wide variety of talks to interest members and visitors, making it worthwhile coming out on a cold winters evening!

If you want to explore the past in our village we have a large archive gathered from over 30 years of research. This provides an opportunity for volunteers to delve into Gretton's history and perhaps publish the results in our occasional magazine "Taking Stock".

Do come along to one of our talks and discover local and national stories. Last year our talk on Launde Abbey included the discovery of a letter from Henry VIII to the son of Thomas Cromwell, gifting him the Abbey buildings and land, (was this an indication that he felt guilty for dispatching his father, the Chancellor, so brutally?).

Future talks are all held on fourth Fridays at 7.30pm in the Village Hall:

March 22nd

Rockingham: A Social History of the Village Under the Castle

By Ann Redshaw

A brief overview of the history of Rockingham Village, including aspects of daily life as experienced in a 'closed' village eg: who was in charge, what were the living conditions like, what employment and recreation was available. This history of the village was researched from original documents held at the castle, and the book will be available, price £20.

May 24th

Northamptonshire Film Archive Trust

This return visit from the popular Film Archive will show more early films in the Trust's Collection. If you have any old films taken in the county that could be copied and preserved for posterity please bring them with you.

July 26th

"Trench Humour in the First World War" by Stephen Barker

Soldiers often turned to humour to alleviate the stress of life in the trenches. This presentation takes a light-hearted look at many aspects of trench Humour such as contemporary slang, popular songs, cartoons, satirical journals, concert parties etc.

Gretton Cricket Club

Gretton Cricket Club will be fielding two teams in the 2024 season. Our Saturday team will be playing in the Northamptonshire Cricket League, in a newly formed 12 team Division 8 led by Rob Ellis. We also have a midweek side playing in the Geddington Midweek League on a Wednesday night led by Michael Houseman.



We pride ourselves on being a welcoming, friendly, sociable and competitive club, always playing to win within the spirit of our great game, even on the rare occasions when the odds may be stacked against us. As with previous years our aim is always the continuation of cricket in our village, which has been played as Gretton Cricket Club since 1878, possibly even earlier.

Our season commences on Saturday 27th April with an away trip to Poddington 2nds before we host our first home fixture of the summer on Saturday 4th May against Buton Latimer 3rds . Throughout the summer we are also pleased be playing host once more to Weldon 3rds which means village cricket will be available for anyone wishing to spectate every Saturday through until 14th September. During the summer we will also play host to the Rose Bowl contest between Gretton & Weldon, this Historic trophy between the clubs was revived last year and having been won by Weldon we are keen to ensure the return of the trophy to Gretton. At present the date is still to be confirmed but details will be shared via social media, we'd love to have the support of a large home crowd on the day.

We are always happy to accept new players. We currently have indoor winter nets at Rutland Cricket Centre on a Sunday evening, 5-6pm. We will also have outdoor nets through the summer. New players over the age of 13 and of any experience level are always welcome to join us. If you are interested please contact Gretton Cricket Club on Facebook or Rob Ellis on 07885839378.

On Saturday 23rd March at 7.30pm we will hosting a Fundraising Race Night at Gretton Sports & Social Club, funds are being raised to undertake essential repairs on our ground equipment, particular our aging roller. We would very much appreciate if the Gretton community could help support this event, arrangements have been made in advance with Gretton Sports & Social Club to cover any non-members wishing to attend. Any individual or local business wishing to sponsor a race may do so for £20, please contact Fraser Wright on 07963 938 671 or via grettoncricketclub@hotmail.com

Gretton Gardening Group

Hello everyone and welcome to the start of what is probably going to be our busiest few months in the garden, especially if you like gardening in the recent freeze, wind and rain! What a contrast the start of this season has been, when immediately before that they may probably tell us we had the warmest February on record. I don't actually know when these records started, but they seem to have missed out the Medieval Warm Period as well as the time the romans were growing grapes almost up to Scotland - and don't get me started on the palm trees we had all over the place in prehistoric times.

Suffice it to say that we all accept that gardeners can adapt to anything thrown at us. As we start in March, the temptation to buy those delightful bedding plants on show at many garden centres look too good to miss, but please either wait for a few more weeks or keep the ones you have brought under cover until Jack Frost has gone to bed.

This first week of March is about as late as I like to buy and plant bare root shrubs or perennials, but almost an ideal time to plant any container grown plants. They will have plenty of time to establish themselves and many will flower the first year. A guide to what to plant will be seen in most good garden centres or by an internet search of "jobs to do in ...April....May...."

Quite recently I heard that one of our well informed members of yet another government "nudge unit" have begun to advise us that we shouldn't be growing our own vegetables at home. Yes, you read that right. We don't know what evil bugs or dodgy soil is lurking just below the surface of our back gardens or allotments and it will make us all very, very ill. Instead, we have to rely on a diminishing supply of wholesome fruit and vegetables which, even as I write, are zooming around our planet from some far flung country over whom we most likely have zero control about their methods of production or any idea of how equally contaminated that land is. I imagine this new doctrine will be sold to us as being the "green way" to mitigate global warming, a.k.a. climate change.

Without a crystal ball I'm not sure myself or Dishy Rishi really know what the end result will be, but I can't, in my weirdest apocalyptic dreams, imagine my home grown tomatoes will be the death of me. As with all things, the choices are yours to make, but I know what I will be doing.

As I wrote at the beginning, these next few months in the flower or vegetable gardens are going to be full on and the Gretton Garden Group will be having growing advice from various speakers on different subjects. Sorry that time and space here will prevent me from listing every job which needs doing each month, I say this because that there are so many beautiful plants out there that it would take many pages just to deal with the flower garden, never mind the vegetable patch or fruit beds.

If you would like to learn a but more then why not visit us at the Village Hall every 3rd Friday evening of the month where we will have many different speakers and visits to other gardens. Our annual subscription is £20.00, or for visitors who are always welcome, we charge between £3.00 and £5.00 depending on the speaker or venue at the time.

Doors are open from 7.30pm with a free cuppa ready for an 8pm start. Sorry there isn't a bar available, but you are welcome to bring your own drinks if you wish. Further details can be found at www.grettongardeninggroup.com.

September 27th

"Finding the Lost Palace of Lady Margaret Beaufort at Collyweston"

By Chris Close, Chair of Collyweston Historical and Preservation Society

This meeting will be followed by our Society AGM.

November 22nd

"Edward 1st and Queen Eleanor" by Kim Caddell

Myths and fables concerning his reign, her funeral cortege journey from Lincoln to London, and the subsequent erection of the 'Eleanor Crosses'.

Society membership is £10 per year and gives free entry to all talks, non members are very welcome as visitors at £3 per talk. All meetings include refreshments and a raffle to help defray speakers' expenses.

Gretton Quilters

We meet on the third Saturday of each month in Gretton Village Hall from 11.15 to 4.15pm.

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.



During 2023 some of us have worked on a mini quilt (right) based on many different quilting techniques. We hope to show some of them at the June flower festival. Some of the group bring their own projects. This shows an example of one of the blocks. It's called a Seminole block.

In 2024 we'd like to make a quilt for the raffle at the September Macmillan coffee morning. Everyone will make a block with a common theme and colour. We are also planning a trip the Springfields quilt show in June. There'll be lots of quilts on show and lots of things to buy!

Please come along and join us to see what we do. Visitors and new members are welcome.

Happy Stitching!

Contact Hilary 07867 381 599

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.

We are currently trying to sort out the hall, decorating throughout, replacing broken equipment, replacing the front fence, and making the area at the front of the hall more attractive. We are replacing the tables and chairs in the meeting room. We also plan to install broadband. There are several other projects being discussed and I will keep the village informed about these when they are finalised.

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

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 6th February

Tuesday 5th March

Tuesday 2nd April

Tuesday 7th May

Tuesday 4th June

COMMUNICATIONS

Helen continues to maintain our communications regarding advertising events, including our Village Lunches and Bridge Drives. You can find details on Facebook.

THE NEXT BRIDGE DRIVE

The next bridge drive will be on Tuesday 16th April 2024. This will be advertised, and we hope to have a good response. For further information please contact Helen Heywood, email: Villagehallgretton@outlook.com

EVENTS

We have several events planned in the hall during February and March, including a murder Mystery evening with a light supper. The details will be included in a separate article. Please come and join us at these events which help to ensure the viability of the hall.

Gretton Primary School

The spring term is well under way at Gretton Primary and children have definitely come back from the Christmas break ready to learn in 2024.

Sport continues to feature heavily in our calendar and early on in the term our Year 5/6 football team represented the school in the Country Finals after securing their place with an impressive performance at a local competition at Kingwood Secondary Academy in which they came second. A group of children also represented the school at a local cross-country event. Two of the runners made it through this round to represent the school at the next stage of the competition which we are really proud of.



Our Forest School team have been working hard around the village. We have recently been working alongside the Parish Council to establish a permanent Forest School base in Picks Playing field and last term children visited the area many times – playing in the trees, planting lots of daffodil bulbs and toasting marshmallows. We are so lucky to have so many areas in the village that our children can enjoy and our Forest Schoolers really enjoy their walks around the village and learning about the history of the buildings and the heritage of the village.

As you can imagine, lots of hard work goes in behind the scenes to ensure that the school runs smoothly. Towards the end of last term, we were surprised by a visit from North Northamptonshire Environmental Health and we are delighted to announce that, once again, we were awarded 5 stars for the cleanliness of our school kitchen. A big well done to Audrey Grant and her team for keeping everything so clean and tidy and for providing such an amazing lunch service for our children.

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 growing 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

Gretton Social Sewing Group

Gretton Social Sewing Group now has over 40 members and meets twice a month in Gretton Village Hall. We meet the 2nd Saturday of every month from 11.15 am until 4.15pm, and every 4th Thursday from 10am until 4pm. The cost is just £2 an hour!

As our name implies we are a very social group of like minded people who love to sew, either by hand or machine sewing. We have some members who do patchwork and quilt, others dress make, make curtains, blinds, bags etc. The list is endless. All are welcome and help is on hand, should you need it, with your chosen project.

We are fully equipped for all your needs with irons and ironing boards, cutting tables, cutting boards and rulers for quilting, an overlocker and extension leads. We are also in the process of purchasing a spare sewing machine for those times you may forget your leads or heaven forbid, your machine breaks down.

Tea, coffee and biscuits are always available at no extra cost and we even have cake on those special occasions.

Our plans for the future include a trip to the NEC at Birmingham in March to visit the Sewing for Pleasure and craft exhibition, a soup and dessert lunch at Easter and an afternoon tea in Pocket Park! Once again we will be participating in the Gretton Flower Festival.

At Christmas we are once again booked into the Hatton Arms for our Christmas meal. Last Christmas thirty of us managed to get together to celebrate, a really lovely day of laughter and friendship.

Our thriving group is a non profit making group and is now in its second year with the required insurance cover for all members and our equipment.

If you are interested in joining our group then please contact Bridget Haller on 07796 793191



BOOKINGS

The Contact details are listed below.

200 CLUB

The draw for this is done during our village hall lunch 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

Gretton Village Hall Entertainments

Our first show of the new year was a concert by ' **FUGU** ', an exciting new duo from Stamford featuring Graham Dale and Jay Goldmark. Hope you didn't miss it!

By contrast, on **Saturday 9th March** we have the ever popular return of "**A Murder Mystery Evening** " with the Thrapston Amateur Dramatic Society.

As the audience you will be encouraged to form your own 'sleuth groups' to interrogate witnesses and suspects, and bring the heinous villain to justice.

Then on **Saturday March 16th** we have a concert by "**Uppingham Jazz and Soul Band**". This big band of up to 35 musicians features covers of popular jazz and soul standards such as 'A Foggy Day', 'Gimme Some Lovin' (Blues Brothers), 'A Natural Woman' (Aretha Franklin) and many more. There will be room to dance!



Tickets or reservations for all events from Andy Butterworth 01536-802381, Julie in the Gretton Shop, or on the door on the night.

All events start at 7-30 pm, with a licensed bar and raffle.

Prices; Murder Mystery.....£10
Uppingham Jazz and Soul£12

See you there

Andy

Gretton Bowling Club

Carpet Bowls is a popular pass-time on #Wednesday's at Gretton Village Hall. We start at 11.30am, have a cuppa and finish at about 1.30pm.

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 and give bowling a try?

Marshall Ferguson 01536 770521

Gretton Skittles

Gretton Sports Club still proudly hosts a skittles team, and this year's winter league concluded at the end of March. We compete in the Market Harborough Skittles league on Wednesday nights, and this was our 3rd season back after a few years away. We are a friendly bunch, who play with a smile on our faces and see it more as a night out, rather than a competition. The teams in our league consist of working men's clubs and pubs from Kettering, Rothwell, Desborough and Market Harborough. We had 3 new additions to our team this season in Dave Smith, Heather Smith, and Tony Sutton, who we have enjoyed welcoming into our close-knit team. Thank you to all the players that have played for us this season including, Marian Ward, Eric Rossell, Regina Clasper, Julie Hull, James Ross, Darren Baines, plus Michael, Martin, and Patrick Houseman. Without you, we wouldn't be able to carry on this great tradition, which keeps skittles as the oldest pub sport in Northants and Leicestershire. An added thanks and mention to Maggie, Martin, and Michael Houseman, who always put on a lovely spread of food for us at every home game. As ever, it is the talk of the league and all for the right reasons. Due to work commitments, I am unable to make every game, so thanks to Marian Ward for stepping in for me when required. We start our season again in October, but we are always on the hunt for new players, so if you are interested in joining us, please contact myself on the mobile number below.

The end of the season always concludes with the George Boon Skittle Trophy, which this year will be held at Gretton Sports Club, on Saturday April 6 from 7pm. This knockout competition is held in the memory of George Boon, who was a prominent figure in the village and one of the best skittles players to grace the board. Everyone taking part will play 1 game of 7 legs, and the winner will progress into the next round, until we get to the final 2, with the winner being crowned the 2024 Champion. This has been played for many years and is an important part of our calendar. The reigning champion is Marian Ward, who narrowly beat James Ross, in last year's final.

Anyone can join us on the evening, and it's £2 to play. There will be food served afterwards and the winner of the competition, will have their name, etched onto the shield which is held in the club. We politely ask, that anyone who wants to play arrives at the club for no later than 7pm, as we won't be able to accept any more players, after then when the draw is made.

Lee Wright (GSSC Skittles Captain)
07545460729

But what made Jeff Ward truly special was his passion for helping others achieve their sporting dreams. He always took an interest in a young person's sporting endeavours, and he believed that to succeed in sports, you need clarity of purpose and persistence.



Jeff Ward once wrote, "To succeed in sports, you need a clear vision and determination. A clear vision of what you want to achieve. Determination & resilience to help overcome challenges and continue to move forward."

Jeff Ward's legacy lives on through The Jeff Ward Sporting Fund, which enables The Travers Foundation to provide additional funding exclusively to our local young sportspeople who have the ability and opportunity to compete internationally.

Terry Forsey, founder of The Travers Foundation, says, "We are honoured to have been selected as the Jeff Ward Sporting Fund custodians. We are confident that our local young sports people will benefit from this funding for many years."

Local young sportspeople can apply for support at www.travers-foundation.org.uk

Gretton WI

Gretton WI meet on the second Tuesday of the month in Gretton Village Hall at 7.30pm.

We welcome both current members and visitors. If there is a particular meeting you feel you like to attend please come along to the Village Hall. To cover speaker costs we charge £5 for visitors.



Our up and coming programme is as follows:

Tuesday 12th March - Annual General Meeting followed by a social gathering. At this meeting we elect our committee for the year including officers.

Tuesday 9th April - Speaker : A former member of the royal protection service who will be making a return visit to Gretton to talk about his time as a serving officer in the Metropolitan Police.

Tuesday 14th May - Speaker: Katrina Freiss 'How to get started in researching your ancestors'

Tuesday 11th June - Summer Party

Tuesday 9th July - Speaker: Kate Gardner 'Sustainable Florestry'

If you are interested in any of these events please contact us by email or telephone or just turn up on the night

Email : kab@polygonpartnership.com or 01536 771749/07773219706
Kathleen Brotherton

This term we are looking forward to embarking on many more experiences and 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 enough, hopefully see lots of newly born lambs. A big thank you to Farmer Austin for allowing the children to come and visit again this year.

We are looking forward to holding our annual Easter Stay and Play this year and are looking forward to inviting our families in for an afternoon of craft and fun.

Nature Nursery is looking forward to exploring the spring season, we have been busy over winter exploring the Pocket Park, visiting the cows, jumping in the enormous puddles, making bird feeders, threading leaves and enjoying snacks around the campfire.

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

We can't wait to see what we will encounter this spring.

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 who would be more than happy to show you around. Places are limited at the moment so if you would like to have a place in September, then please do get in touch.

The Travers Foundation

Jeff Ward was a keen racing enthusiast who competed and won races during the 1960s.

Retirement did not stop his sporting pursuits; he was a regular sailor at Rutland Water. He also enjoyed participating in the annual Banbury Run, the largest gathering of pre-1931 motorcycles organised by the Vintage Motorcycle Club. Jeff won on several occasions!

Joining the 750 Motor Club at age twenty, Jeff started competing with an Austin 7 Special before progressing via a self-built 750 Formula Car and the ex-Rob Easterling Rejo to a Chevron. A founder of the London Special Builders Group and author of The Special Builders Guide, Jeff helped countless others progress up the motorsport ladder.



Gretton Baptist Church

We have had a really enjoyable start to the year when our link missionary joined us. She really helped us to understand what life could be like for people (particularly women) in some parts of the world. We were really blessed by her visit.



Her visit also coincided with the beginning of our bicentenary year. The chapel was built in 1824 but not licensed until 1825 but we are celebrating this year. We have already had a Songs of Praise and we plan a big weekend of Special events over the weekend of 31st May-2nd June. We are also planning a hymnathon in the autumn. Details of all events will be made known when they have been confirmed.

Our Easter services will be:

- Good Friday meditation at 10:15am
- Easter Sunday all age service also at 10:15am

Our regular services are always at 10:15am and they are as follows:

- Regular services every Sunday morning
- Café service on 2nd Sunday morning
- Morning service with Holy Communion
- Prayer meeting every Sunday in the chapel at 6pm

In addition to our services, we also have other midweek groups running. The Drop In on a Monday morning from 10am to midday is very popular and everyone who comes will receive a warm welcome.

Everyone is always welcome to any service or meeting we have. We are not a large congregation but we are a church who seeks to provide love, hope and spiritual strength to those who search for it. Do come and join us. Any time.

Rev Peter Lloyd
Tel. 772155

Friends of Gretton Recreation Ground

SKATE PARK AND OUTDOOR GYM

We are delighted to announce that the NEW Skate Park and Outdoor Gym are OPEN !!!!

The facilities have been designed to be used by a wide range of users of all ages and abilities and we look forward to many years of activity and fun.

We would emphasise that the skate park is a sports facility intended for skateboards, inline skates, BMX bikes and scooters only. Please stay safe, follow the instructions on the signage, respect other users and enjoy this facility.

The weather during the construction last autumn was extremely wet and there is some additional landscaping to be completed and areas to be seeded with grass and wildflowers when the weather conditions are more suitable.

An **Opening Event** and **Activity Day** is planned on **Saturday 20th April** with competitions, demonstrations and a great opportunity 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

We are looking forward to the better weather in the spring and 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!!

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



BOOK THE MUGA

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 £6.50 per hour for village residents or £13 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 on e-mail: bookthemuga@gmail.com.

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 have enjoyed celebrating Burns Night this year, making our own shortbread in Baking Club and working collaboratively to create our own poem. The children have been really interested in colours and using the water colour paints to create their own unique masterpieces and we were lucky enough to have a visit from PC Dilley, who came and spoke to us about his job as a Policeman and allowed us to have a go at sitting in his car, dressing up and exploring our own individual fingerprints by using the ink pads.

