

GRETTON LIFE

Summer 2023



The Paddock Park, Gretton, June 2023

**PUBLISHED ON BEHALF OF
GRETTON PARISH COUNCIL**

From the Chair of the Parish Council

Hello and welcome to the summer 2023 edition of Gretton Life.

I was delighted to see that many of you had the opportunity to celebrate the King's Coronation and Big Lunch at the Recreation Ground in May. The Parish Council are proud to have facilitated the event with the help and support of the Friends of Gretton Recreation Ground and the Gretton Sports and Social Club, along with many other groups who were fundamental to its success. A big thank you to all those who helped out and especially to Cllr Fraser Wright for organising it. For those who missed it, one of our residents, Frances Stubbs has uploaded a video on YouTube under "Gretton The Coronation Big Lunch". Do take a look.



We are very fortunate to have Darren Dovey, the ex-Chief Fire Officer for Northamptonshire, in the village. Darren has put together a Community Resilience Plan for the Parish Council. The aim of the community resilience plan is to increase short-term community resilience in response to an emergency occurring in the local area and to assist with the recovery from that emergency. We will be holding an open day at the Village Hall on the 1st July to promote it. This is an opportunity for you to come along and find out more. Please look out for advertising around the village and on Facebook for more details. The plan is currently available on the Parish Council website (Parish Documents/Other documents/Gretton Community Resilience) if you would like to read it.

I have been working with Sophie van den Bergh who is the project officer for the Building Links for Rockingham Forest group to investigate the feasibility of starting a Nature Recovery Plan for the parish. This is an exciting opportunity for the group to support and guide Gretton via a series of workshops; a user-friendly guide; and access to the expertise of the various partnerships they are working with, such as Natural England and the Wildlife Trust. The aim is to help the Parish Council secure and improve the environment and ecology within the parish boundary. We will be looking for volunteers from the community – from the youngest to the oldest – to help design the strategy for our local environment. If you have any interest in being involved, please do contact the Clerk to let us know. We will be reaching out in the coming months.

And finally, don't forget that the Gretton Good Neighbour Scheme is now up and running. Following on from the previous successful Skills Café, another event is in the planning. If you need some help or would like to be involved, please get in touch on 07518 613684 or Grettongoodneighbours@gmail.com.

Wishing you a happy summer filled with sunshine.

Jacki Lilley
Chair, Gretton Parish Council

From the Clerk to the Parish Council

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

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

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

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

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

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

From the Editor

Hello everyone,

Welcome to the summer edition of Gretton Life. This is really a 'hello and goodbye' message from me. Unfortunately, due to other commitments, I no longer have the time to edit the newsletter.

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 9 October.

Have a lovely summer everyone!

Yvette Redding

Looking Back ...



The Coronation of King George VI took place in 1937. At the village school the May Queen became the Coronation Queen. The special arch was built using the netball posts. The Queen is May Coleman and her attendants are Nellie Barwell and Rita Coleman. The May Queen was always chosen from one of the older girls who would be leaving school that summer.

Elisabeth Jordan
Gretton Local History Society

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

Jackie Clark

Sparkle Tots Gretton

Baby & Toddler
GROUP



My name is Samantha and together with St James church, I run Sparkle Tots Gretton.

Sparkle Tots meets on Friday mornings during term time, 10am to 11:30am in Gretton village hall.



We welcome parents and carers of children from birth to 5 years.



We provide opportunities for the children to play and learn freely with a variety of toys for all ages.

There are healthy snacks and home made cakes for all to enjoy.



At the end of the session there is a short song time.

From September 2023, our prices will be:

£2.50 first child

£1.00 for each extra child you bring

50p babies 6 months and under

Your first session will be free.



If you have any financial struggles, we would rather you be there, so please come and speak to me.

Samantha Brailsford

Children and Families Lead for St John's and St James.

Sam.stjohnscorby@gmail.com

Chirpy Chicks Pre-school

It has been another fun and exciting term at Chirpy Chicks Pre School. We always follow the children's interests and plan within the moment, so when the children were excited by their pets, we were lucky enough to have some close encounters with a bearded dragon and a snake, as well as sharing photos of all of our amazing and very much-loved pets from home.



Gardening and life cycles have also been of keen interest and we have been lucky enough to plant some carrots, radishes, peas and many more vegetables in our allotment. We have planted some new bulbs and sunflowers and we are hoping that these will eventually grow as tall as us. The herbs in the garden are thriving and we enjoy adding these to our playdough area and water trays so that we can enjoy the various scents that they have to offer.

Jenny has been busy with the children creating a unique wormery compost for us to observe and we have shown great care to the caterpillars and tadpoles that we have been looking after, releasing the butterflies into the orchard.

We also took part in some Coronation Celebrations, making crowns and baking cupcakes and muffins for us all to enjoy at our afternoon tea party. We were then lucky enough to be invited to the Gretton Coronation Village Party and we would like to express a big 'Thank You' to Tim Fox for inviting us and also to the children and families that came and said 'Hello' and had a face paint.

We are looking forward to taking part in the Gretton Flower Festival and the children have been very busy planting lots of flowers and we hope our sunflowers will be ready in time! We really hope that you are able to pop along and see the children's creations.

In June we will be holding our annual Chirpy Chicks Sports Day and Stay and Play. It is a lovely morning and the children enjoy taking part in sports events and joining together in the school orchard for an ice lolly and refreshments afterwards.

Thank you once again, to all of our families and the local community for all your continued support, we hope that Chirpy Chicks is one of those special places in the village that helps to make Gretton the thriving and caring community that it is.

Chirpy Chicks Pre School is a not-for-profit community-based preschool for children aged 2 years to school age, achieving 'outstanding' in our 2022 Ofsted inspection. If you would like to enquire about a place for your child or would like to come for a visit, then please contact us on 01536 771711 or email samantha@chirpy-chicks.co.uk.

Gretton Primary School

The summer term is always a busy time in primary schools and this year is no different! The school was awash with flags and bunting for our traditional Rose Fair celebration which this year we coincided with the Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III. The event started with the traditional crowning of the Rose King and Queen along with the presentation of their attendants and then parents were treated to a wonderful display of country dancing from all children across the school. The event was capped off



with the unveiling of our brand-new maypole and our Year 6 children performed their dances beautifully.

Children have been representing the school at a number of sporting events over the past weeks. Our Year 5 and 6 football team came 3rd in the Jimmy Kane Football Tournament at Corby Town FC. At the Quadkids Athletics Tournament our Year 5 and 6 children earned a bronze medal and our Year 3 and 4 children came second, not only earning a silver medal but qualifying for the County finals which will take place at Moulton College in July. We are so proud of each and every one of our sporting superstars!

The children of our School Council have been working with Parish Council to think about ways to encourage safe driving around the village and safe parking outside our school. You will shortly see "Parking Buddies" outside the school gates reminding those parking near the school to be considerate of children and parents walking to school when they park.

And finally, we are sad to be saying goodbye to two of our longest serving members of staff. Margaret McMillan and Bet Ward are both retiring from their roles as midday supervisors after 19 and 16 years at the school respectively. We wish them well in their retirement and will miss them both enormously.

Julia Dickinson, Headteacher

Gretton Beavers and Cubs

1st GRETTON SCOUT GROUP

We are pleased to let everyone know that not only have we been able to re-open our Beaver Colony post covid, we have now re-opened our Cub Pack - so fun, friends and skills for life for all our young people now between the ages of 6 and 10.5 years in the Village Hall on Monday evenings.



for ages 6 to 8

Mondays 5.45 to 6.45pm

for ages 8 to 10.5

Mondays 7.00 to 8.30pm



We have a **cubs** up Scout Leader to help us drive the group forwards, and we are hoping to reopen our Scout Troop (10.5 - 14) in the near future.

But Scouting isn't just for our children – it's for everyone - there are opportunities for adults to be part of the fun and adventure, or to be "behind the scenes". Whatever your skillset you will be more than welcome - and if that skillset is a smile, even more so.

We have spaces in both the beaver colony and the cub pack, if you would like to come join us - or pop in for a visit - please contact Victoria at grettonbeavers@gmail.com or Jade at gretton.cubs@hotmail.com - you will be more than welcome to pop along on spec, but we can't guarantee to be in whilst the sun is shining and there are so many opportunities for fun and adventure outdoors.

For 14-17 year olds the nearest unit currently meets between Corby and Kettering, or we do have space for 1-2 to come and be young leaders with the group here in Gretton.

We look forward to seeing you

Catriona
Group Chair

Lydia's Coffee Shop & Post Office

We are delighted to welcome the lovely Donna Winch to our management team & we hope she will thoroughly enjoy her time at Lydia's.

All our managers and volunteers (without whom we could not operate) will give you a very warm welcome and serve you with a smile. On these hot summer days, you can sit either on the village Green enjoying the sunshine or in the cool of the coffee shop.



Our premium coffee is roasted locally in Oakham by Two Chimps and is delicious! We make all our own cakes - also delicious and we serve light lunches and sell all manner of sweets, chocolate, crisps and cold drinks. We also stock a good selection of Alex Clark cards for all occasions. So please come in and see us if you're not already a loyal customer. We also host the Post Office on Tuesdays between 10am and 1pm.

Open Monday - Saturday 10am - 4pm.

A big thank you to all our customers and volunteers who make working at Lydia's a real joy.

Fiona Sharman

Defibrillators



There are two in the village, one at the doctor's surgery and the other beside Lydia's coffee shop. To access these in an need to ring 999 and if they assess that an AED is needed, they will send you to the nearest accessible device.

Royal British Legion

Remembrance Sunday 12th November and 2023 Poppy Appeal – advanced notice:

- 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 by a parade to the War Memorial on the Village Green for the laying of wreaths.



In the weeks 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. A fundraising event to support this year's appeal is being arranged for late October/early November at Gretton Sports and Social Club. As ever I am extremely grateful to Dave Miller, Honorary Poppy Appeal organiser, for his dedication and commitment with this year's Appeal.

Following the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in September last year and the accession to the throne of His Majesty King Charles III he is now head of our armed forces and patron of the Royal British Legion.

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

It has been an interesting few months at the chapel with quite a few people moving away and some new friends joining us. Our regular morning service has continued to be well supported as have the various groups which meet during the week.

Our regular services and meetings are as follows:

Sunday service: 10.15am
(All age family service on 2nd Sunday in the month.)

Prayer meeting: 6pm



Monday Drop In: 10am-midday.

Tuesday (alternate weeks): Bible study at 2.30pm

(Our Harvest Festival is planned for Sunday 1st October at 10.15am)

We have been running an Alpha course which gives people room to consider the Christian faith and to explore the evidence there is for it. People are welcome to ask any questions they like and to respond however they please. If this is something which would appeal to you, have a look on line at the Alpha course to see more about it. The current course is nearing its end but it may be that we will organise another in the autumn so do get in touch if you are interested.

Our building has been refurbished and the rooms are available for anyone who would wish to hold a small meeting on occasions. Do get in touch if you are interested.

As a church family we are here to show the love of God to the community. If there is any way we can ever help then do get in touch. We also welcome anyone who would like to attend any of the meetings we hold. Do come along and join us. You may enjoy it more than you think!

Rev Peter Lloyd
01536 772155

St James' Church

This summer we welcome the Revd Joe Griffiths to St James' as he begins his curacy (training post) working in both Gretton and Corby. Having been ordained at Peterborough Cathedral, Joe will be involved in all areas of church life for the next three years. Joe is married to Gemma and they have three daughters - in September Isla and Esme will both be at Gretton Primary School and Florrie will be at Chirpy Chicks.

Alongside Joe's passion for Jesus, he is also a serious golfer and loves to chat about both! Do introduce yourselves to him when you see him around the village - as a family they are very much looking forward to getting to know all in Gretton.

A huge thank you to all who helped to make the 2023 Flower Festival a great success and especially the dedicated team who have been planning and preparing for many months.

Our weekly services at St James' are at 9am on Sundays and 10am on Wednesdays. The first Sunday of each month is especially suitable for young families. Additionally, we hold a traditional evensong at 6pm on the third Sunday of the month.

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

With every blessing

Paul

The Revd Paul Frost
Rector of St John's Church, Corby



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.

I would like to assure everyone that we are always willing to listen to your opinions, concerns or suggestions regarding the village 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 LUNCHESES

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 4th July.

There is no Lunch in August

Tuesday 5th September

Tuesday 3rd October

Tuesday 7th November

Tuesday 5th December – The annual Christmas Lunch

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. Helen also took over from Carol Preston as minutes secretary recently as Carol, having undertaken this task for a very long time decided that she would like to hand over this role. We are extremely grateful for her efforts over many years and happy that she will be continuing as our caretaker.

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

I would like to introduce our new bookings secretary who has taken over from Emily recently. 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.

Liz Watt, chair

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 first drama production for over three years, “the Swearing Jar”, was very well received in March.

We were looking forward to the welcome return of Canadian duo “Over the Moon” in September. However, for various reasons their 2023 UK tour has had to be cancelled and they won't be back until 2024. Fortunately, I have been able to book another Canadian singer/songwriter – Dan McKinnon – for the same date of September 30th at 7.30pm. Dan hails from Halifax, Nova Scotia, in the Canadian Maritimes. With a strong, warm baritone voice and superb guitar arrangements Dan's thoughtful compositions cover traditional, historical and contemporary themes. Take a look at www.danmckinnon.ca to sample his music. Tickets will be £12, available in advance from me, Andy Butterworth 01536-802381, or on the door.

Thanks for your support,
Andy Butterworth, annandy5@talktalk.net

Gretton Local History Society

Whilst having a stall at the Coronation Big Lunch/Fun Day, featuring the way Gretton celebrated previous Coronations, we were glad to meet several newcomers to the village and even signed up new society members.

We are now halfway through our 2023 programme of talks. The next is being given by Ros Willatts (formerly much involved in conservation planning for Harborough district) concerning the history of Launde Abbey. Situated to the west of Oakham, Launde is a much-altered Elizabethan manor house on the site of an Augustinian Priory founded before 1125 but dissolved by Henry VIII.



Schedule of talks:

July 28th “Six Cheeses for Cromwell” - the story of Launde Abbey by Ros Willatts.

Sept 22nd “Warrior Women of the English Civil War” by Stephen Barker. Stephen looks at six women who fought; undertook spying missions; or were involved in political negotiations. This meeting will be followed by our AGM.

Nov 24th “Our County Record Office”- Sarah Bridges will explain the scope of records held, including examples from Gretton.

All these talks are held in the Village Hall, commencing at 7.30pm. Society members (£10 per annum) have free entry, but non-members are very welcome and pay £3 per talk. If you have anything relating to Gretton's past which should be preserved please contact any committee member: Sandy Brown, Andy Butterworth, Ann Craske, Elisabeth Jordan, Ian Preston, Margaret Trenwith.

Ann Craske
craskeann@gmail.com

Gretton Women's Institute

Gretton WI began their year 2023-24 with a very successful Annual General Meeting. We have our full complement of Officers to enable us to function as a branch and two new members.

One of our focusses for the summer months is our membership drive. We are keen to put our membership on a strong footing for the next few years and with this in mind we are trying to encourage anyone who feel they would like to give it a try as a visitor, to come along. We meet on the second Tuesday of the month at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall.

During the coming months we have a wide range of Speakers including the RNLI (July) a representative of the Royal Protection Service (September) and WWI Land Girls.

In addition to our monthly meetings a number of our members have joined the Chapel Gym in Corby. We also have an on-going Knitting group who help support the Baby unit at KGH. We also supported the Parish Council in their work during the cost-of-living crisis during the winter.

If you would like any further information, please contact Kathleen on 01536 771749 or kab@polygonpartnership.com
Kathleen Brotherton



Gretton Art Club

NEW MEMBERS ARE VERY WELCOME!

Though we continue to meet in the Village Hall on Monday afternoons at 1.30pm our numbers are dwindling and so we were unable to hold our annual exhibition in conjunction with the Flower Festival this year.



We are looking forward to gaining new impetus (and new members!) in September when local artist, Jax Crewe will be our regular tutor/mentor for those wanting to consolidate their techniques or just extend their horizons.Fees are just £5 per session or £8 with our tutor present. If you are interested. please contact us on 01536 770803, or just come along.

Andy Butterworth, Ann Craske and Charlotte Parkin.

Gretton Quilting Group

We are a group of 32 enthusiastic quilters and learners who meet on the third Saturday of each month in Gretton Village Hall from 11.15 to 4.15pm. We range in age from 15 to the more mature!



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

This year are continuing to work on a mini quilt (right) based on many different quilting techniques This has been aimed at newcomers learning basic skills and for those with more experience the fun of relearning old skills and different styles of quilting.



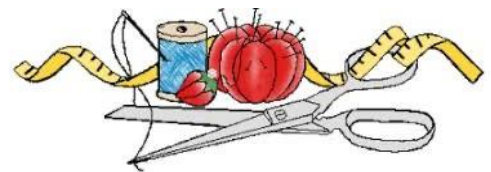
Our group allows for shared learning and several new members have joined us and are beginning to get to grips with techniques such as using a sewing machine; cutting accurately; and assembling carefully to ensure a piece to be proud of. We are working on a welcome beginner's pack to help novice quilters get started.

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

Gretton Quilting Group,
Contact Hilary 07867 381 599

Gretton Social Sewing Group

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.

We are holding a special 'YOUNG SEWERS DAY' event on SATURDAY AUGUST 5TH, for children aged 7 and upwards. Come and make a book cushion! For further details and to book a place please contact Bridget Haller on 07796 793191.

Gretton Social Sewing Group,
Contact Bridget Haller 07796 793191

Koi Carp dumped in the pond!

Some weeks ago, we discovered that three Koi carp had been dumped in the pond. We have since seen several smaller fish which leads us to think that someone has irresponsibly emptied the contents of their pond with no regard for the wildlife.

The pond is not an ornamental one, but one to encourage wildlife. The impact of Koi carp is devastating: newts will avoid such ponds; the carp root around digging up the vegetation and eat the plants; they eat aquatic insects, insect larvae, snails and tadpoles and disturb the bottom sediments creating poor conditions for the wildlife.

It is very easy to put the fish in but weeks later we still have them, even with the efforts that have been made to remove them.



On a lighter note, in late summer we will be carry out our annual hay cut of the wildflower meadow areas and inspect and clean the bird boxes.

If you would like to help, please come along, you do not need to make a regular commitment. It is also a very nice way to meet new friends.

Monitoring our plants and wildlife

We need to know what we are doing right and what we might be doing wrong in order to improve the biodiversity of the pocket park. This requires us to record our plants and wildlife. Would you like to help with this aspect?

Volunteering

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

We also meet once a month at 8.00 pm in the Hatton Arms on the third Wednesday, so you might like to come along and enjoy a drink and a chat.

Bob Dobson

Paddock Park Secretary – 07772789907

Gretton Gardening Group

Hello everyone,

In case you hadn't noticed, the longest day has passed and we will be heading off to see Santa in the not-too-distant future! I wish someone would let the plants know what is happening! Once again, the weather has taken its toll and tried our patience: too cold, too hot, too dry, too wet and even a combination of these in one day! For many of us, however, and certainly here at home, everything is getting a long-awaited growth spurt. With flowers now ahead of their time, many have had their 'Chelsea Crop' already. We have tomatoes ripening in both the greenhouse and the vegetable patch and courgettes growing before our eyes. How do you plan for this, I wonder? As I often say: we gardeners are a resilient bunch and able to cope with almost everything nature can throw our way. I certainly hope that the rest of the year treats us well and we all have a bumper harvest of flowers for the vase or produce for the plate.

The Gretton Gardening Group has also had a decent crop of speakers and visitors already this year. If you are interested in coming along to our monthly meetings at the village hall in Kirby Road, then have a look at our website – just search "Gretton gardening group" for details of our programme. Or if you prefer you can ring me (Alan) or Julie on the number below for more information.

Happy gardening from all of us here!

Alan Waterman

01536 772575

Gretton Weather Watch

As a gardener and mathematician, I'm interested in weather patterns and I love a spreadsheet. I wondered if others in the village might like to see this information. I set up a weather station at home on 11 March and have noted some key data so far this year. As time goes on, I can add to this and give annual comparisons. I know others in the village have similar weather stations and data may vary slightly due to location. I'm happy to answer questions, if I can!

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

Greener Gretton

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

We continue to support and publicise Rita the Refill Revolution van, which visits Gretton on the second Saturday of each month. You can buy cleaning items, and various food items using your own containers - reducing the use of plastics, and in many cases, saving money.



Rita also calls at Cottingham on alternate Thursdays - check Facebook for exact dates.

She is also at Corby Old Village Market on the last Saturday of each month.

For up-to-date info you can follow [rita_the_roadster](#) on Instagram

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

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

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

Recycling:

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

Argos and Curry's take electrical goods for recycling.

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 September or October.



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

The Travers Foundation

See our ambitious local young musicians, our Travers Rising Stars at the Core at Corby Cube on Saturday 18th November 2023.



Travers Rising Stars is a unique program for ambitious young musicians who want to improve their skills, get more gigs, and create a successful career in the music industry. The program helps young artists develop their talent and provides the support and resources needed to succeed.

Travers Rising Stars is run by the Travers Foundation, a volunteer-run charity that supports local young people in the performing arts, music, and sports. The Travers Foundation has a history

of helping young people achieve their dreams, and Travers Rising Stars provides young musicians with the guidance and support they need to take their performance to the next level. Travers Rising Stars helps young musicians to make their mark in the music industry.

SPECIAL OFFER - Use our discount code "TRS2023" to get one free ticket if you book 4 or more.

The Travers Rising Stars programme is open to any local band, singing group or solo artist between the ages of 13 and 30 who reside in Leicestershire, Northamptonshire, or Rutland. Visit www.travers-foundation.org.uk for more information.

Terry Forsey

contact@travers-foundation.org.uk

www.travers-foundation.org.uk

Gretton Silver Band

The Gretton Silver Band is now well into its Summer Programme, having already played at the Lyddington Fête, the Gretton Coronation Fun Day and Rowel Fair Sunday. In addition, the band provided most of the players for the Rowel Fair Proclamation ceremony, which takes place at 6.00am on the Monday after Rowel Fair Sunday. Not a job for the faint hearted or those who do not like to get up at this very early hour!

Over the next few months, the band will be playing at Braybrook village fete, the Gretton Flower Festival, Caldicot village fete, Bainton village fete, which is a new venue for us, Hambleton Lodge Farm, which is also new to us, Kettering Rockingham Road Park, and Northampton Abbington Park. The last two concerts are always enjoyed by the band as it gives us the opportunity to play in a traditional band stand and also to perform in our county town of Northampton.

Over the last few months, the band has been strengthened by new players in the cornet section and in the tenor horn section. The trombone section now has a full complement of players, and our young players in the cornet section are doing the band, and themselves proud. As always, we welcome players, particularly on percussion, and in the bass section, to come and join a friendly village band, whose sole purpose is to provide and maintain the long tradition of a Brass Band in the village and to play music for everybody to enjoy.

In the meantime, the band wishes all the young people in the village who have been working hard at their exams, the best of luck, and to everybody else, a good and enjoyable summer.

Peter Weston, President, Gretton Silver Band. Peterweston41@aol.co.uk

Friends of Gretton Recreation Ground

SKATE PARK AND OUTDOOR GYM UPDATE

Funding has been approved for new skatepark and outdoor gym in Gretton. Skateboarders, shredders and BMX riders in Gretton are set to get a new skatepark and outdoor gym thanks to a £100,000 grant from FCC Communities Foundation. The money will be used to install a brand new skatepark and outdoor gym equipment at the Gretton Recreation Ground. The Friends of Gretton Recreation Ground are leading the project.



This project will provide a real social and health boost to the people of Gretton and it is fantastic that FCC Communities Foundation has awarded the village the funds and we're really looking forward to our park additions taking shape over 2023.

The Friends of Gretton Recreation Group are leading on the installation which will be located on Kirby Road Recreation Ground, adjacent to the MUGA (multi-use games area). The accountable body, Gretton Parish Council, will appoint a partner to work with the Friends Group in the designing, consultation and building of the new flow with a street style plaza and a selection of outdoor gym equipment. A large amount of the funding has been awarded by FCC Community Fund and an additional amount from the North Northants Council community grant. In addition to this young people of the village have been fundraising to 'add to the pot', with a sponsored bike ride and Slushie Tuck Shop. More fundraising events will take place this summer.

A key element of the project will be to consult on the design with the users of the park and young people. If you would like to be part of this process please do engage with the Friends of Group. We meet on a regular basis at the Sports Pavilion. We have already had feedback that users would like to see the park have more accessibility and activities for girls, so we are eager to know your ideas and thoughts on improvements. Please contact Tim Fox, Friends of Gretton Recreation Ground Group Chair and Parish Councillor tim@fox-world.co.uk

The project will be completed by December 2023, with the design consultation over the summer and installation taking place late summer/autumn. Please follow our Facebook page to track its progress, search 'Gretton Skatepark' and 'Gretton Recreation Ground'.

Sara Earl

HOW TO BOOK THE MUGA

There are a number of sporting activities which take place on the MUGA. These 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. 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.



Some equipment is available to borrow for netball, basketball, volleyball, football and tennis.

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

bookthemuga@gmail.com.

Tim Fox

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 & Sue 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)

Gretton Football Club



This season we played more than 100 matches in the Weetabix League and have had more than 80 players turn out in Gretton colours. All our coaches are FA qualified, and we will continue to get more people qualified as the club progresses.

This football season has now finished and so begins the preparation for next season. Gretton have entered some of our teams in summer tournaments that will be played as far away as Wisbech.

Our youngest team for the coming season will be U7 and the players will be coached and encouraged by Chris Turner and Sam King.

We have also managed to enter an U15 team into the league and it will be good to welcome back players who started playing football at Gretton and who we lost several years ago.

At the Coronation event on the recreation ground we raised over £700.00 for club funds with a raffle and we would like to thank everyone who helped to organise the raffle and those who supported us on the day.

As you can imagine, running a football club is an expensive operation, all our players contribute every week and we are grateful to our current sponsors for their continued support. Sponsorship is always needed for kits and training equipment and we welcome support of any amount and if anyone would like to support our youngsters in any way, please contact us at

grettonfootballclub@hotmail.co.uk.

Our progress can be followed throughout the season on the Gretton FC Facebook page.

Rob McCracken

Gretton Sports and Social Club

GRETTON SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB

With summer finally upon us, there is no better place to sit and have a drink on a warm weekend or early evening than Gretton Sports & Social Club's patio!

With the Recreation Ground, Muga, Children's Park, Football, Cricket and other sports there's always something going on. If you haven't used the club for a while or have never used us, why not give us a try? We are a not-for-profit organisation and there are a number of volunteers that help keep the place running, so the money you spend ends up back in our community. We are child-friendly; dogs are welcome on leads; drinks aren't expensive and members have a loyalty scheme that you can redeem for membership or free drinks. Under 18s or those not drinking alcohol do not need to be a member but for everyone else it's £10 a person per year or £5 for seniors. Help keep us open by becoming a member and giving us a try this summer.

We have three large TVs showing all sports. It's not just Football, we show the Rugby, Golf, Cricket, Tennis, F1, Boxing and we've even had Love Island and Eurovision on!

Bingo is every Monday, and we hold charity race nights and other nights to raise money for the community. As well as monthly quizzes, bands and singers, we host kids' Hallowe'en and Christmas parties, birthday parties and funerals. There is lots going on and it's also a great place to meet new people or get involved in the village.

Ask at the bar about membership or scan this code and join in advance.



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

July		see page ...
Sat 1st	Community Resilience Plan at Village Hall	2
Tues 4th	Village Lunch	11
Mon 10th	Parish Council Meeting	3
Fri 28	Six Cheeses for Cromwell – Local History Society talk	12
August		
Sat 5th	Young Sewers' Day	14
Mon 14th	Parish Council Meeting	3
September		
Tues 5th	Village Lunch	11
Mon 11th	Parish Council Meeting	3
Fri 22nd	Warrior Women of the English Civil War – Local History Society talk	12
Sat 30 th	Dan McKinnon performance at Village Hall	12
October		
Sun 1st	Harvest Festival at Baptist Church	9
Tues 3 rd	Village Lunch	11
Mon 9th	Parish Council Meeting	3
Tues 17th	Bridge Drive	11

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 October and cover events happening from NOVEMBER 2023 to FEBRUARY 2024. If you would like to submit information for the next newsletter, please contact the new editor before the deadline date **Monday 9 October 2023**.

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!