

Contacts – Village Organisations

ORGANISATION & MEETINGS		Contact	
1 st Gotherington Beaver Scout	Fri	Ady Joy –	(07795 097704)
1 st Gotherington Cub Scouts	Thu	Sarah Phillips –	(07899 885294)
1 st Gotherington Cub Scouts	Fri	Michelle Rails –	(07748 536510)
1 st Gotherington Scout Troop	Fri	Craig Sprigmore –	(678423)
Membership/waiting list enquiries		membership@1stgotherington.org.uk	
1st Gotherington Brownies	Mon 6.00pm	Kirsten Stillman (673218)	
1st Gotherington Rainbows	Mon 3.30pm	Kirsten Stillman (673218)	
Cricket Club		Colin Ralph (673046) / Brian Cosgrove (676216)	
Church of England		Richard Reakes (675559) richard.vicarage@gmail.com	
Churchwardens (Woolstone)		Sarah Whitehead (674489) / Michael. Bower (672900)	
Football Club (Junior)		Rob Sharp (678057)	
Gardening Club	3rd Wed 8pm	Rob Cronin (321644) / Pam Howell (673015)	
Gotherington Singers	1 st ,3 rd &5 th Mon 8pm	Sue Adamson (676087) sueada@icloud.com	
Local History Society	4th Tue 8pm	Caroline Meller (677489) / Jill Collins (672848)	
Parent and Toddler Group	Tue, Fri 9.30am	Katie Tuffery 07793 885847	
Neighbourhood Watch		John Hicks (676848) / Mary Manders-Trett (674592) Howard Samuels (672492) / Phil Smith (672970) Les Howard 677949 / Berian Thomas 674397	
Oxenton Village Hall		Chairman: Simon Doble (678179) / Secretary: Linda Howard	
Oxenton Village Bookings		Valerie Martin (673233)	
Parish Council	2nd Tue 7.30pm	David Hearn (674408) david@hearn.demon.co.uk	
Parish Council Clerk		Jules Owen (07850 505058) gotheringtonpc@gmail.com	
Parochial Church Council Secretary		Sarah Whitehead (674489)	
Playing Field/Rex Rhodes Building Bookings		Bev Osborne (675741)	
Petanque Club	Sun, Wed, Fri	David Ward on (675080)/Christine Godsell (672821)	
Rec. Club (For Nov 5 th Bonfire)		Gary Thompson (676708) / Robert Swinson (675693)	
Tennis Club		Ian Donnelly (674404)	
Village Hall (Gotherington)	Committee	Peter Price-Thomas / Bev Osborne (675741)	
	Secretary	Christine Godsell (672821)	
	Bookings co-ordinator	Bev Osborne (675741)	
	Treasurer	Howard Samuels (672492)	
Village Hall Coffee Mornings.	1st Sat excl Jan & Aug	Christine Godsell (672821)/ Bev Osborne (675741)	
Wine Club	Chairperson	Howard Samuels (672492) hsamuels@btinternet.com	
3rd Tue 8pm	Secretary	Christine Godsell (672821) candegodsell@tiscali.co.uk	
W.I.	4th Wed 7.30pm	President	Sally Newbury (01242 317276) - sall.newbury@gmail.com
		Secretary	Sue Freeman (01242 679518) - kingslea@fsmail.net
		Treasurer	Mary Green - g.g.12@btinternet.com



Gotherington Topics Spring 2017

A WEIRD 12 MONTHS

There have been so many unexpected (and often unwelcome) things that have happened since the Spring 2016 edition of Topics that I'm left wondering if we've been living in a parallel universe.

The results from the EU Referendum and US election; the (Home Office reported) sharp increase in racially or religiously aggravated crimes; vague reports in the media of people's growing sense of anxiety, fear, and hate; "post-truth" becoming the 2016 international word of the year; "alternative facts" being offered as a justification for lying; the casual disregard shown by some landowners and housing developers for the views of village residents - it's hard not to feel that the world has changed for the worse.

This could easily make us feel depressed or even to start accepting all this as the new "status quo". But we should keep a sense of perspective. After all, we live in a lovely part of the world, in relative harmony and with few if any serious privations. We mustn't be complacent but neither should we be defeatist. We can each do our bit to make the world a better place if we want to. So, the days are getting longer, nature is waking up and Spring is in the air. Let's try to make the next 12 months more uplifting than the last!

The Editor

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TOPICS OF INTEREST

Topics is distributed to everyone in our three villages at Spring, Summer, and Winter.

The next edition (Summer) is due out during or soon after the week starting 17th July 2017

You can find the most recent edition of Topics on the village website at www.gotherington.org.uk

Contributions for Topics should be emailed to the Editor at gotherington.topics@gmail.com

YOUR PARISH COUNCILLORS

<i>Rodney Churchill</i>	<i>662837</i>
<i>Les Howard</i>	<i>677949</i>
<i>David Hearn (Chairman)</i>	<i>674408</i>
<i>David Ward</i>	<i>675080</i>
<i>Caroline Ryman</i>	<i>673707</i>
<i>Sylvia Stokes (Vice-chairman)</i>	<i>674310</i>
<i>Beverley Osborne</i>	<i>675741</i>
<i>Howard Samuels</i>	<i>672492</i>

Contacts – General

<i>Gotherington P.O. & Stores</i>	<i>(672249) www.gotheringtonvillagestore.co.uk</i>
<i>Gotherington Nurseries</i>	<i>(676722) www.gotheringtonnurseries.co.uk</i>
<i>The Shutters</i>	<i>(01242 673122)</i>
<i>Gotherington Primary School</i>	<i>(675454)</i>
<i>Doctor's Stoke Road</i>	<i>(674676)</i>
<i>Doctor's Greyholme Surgery</i>	<i>(672669)</i>
<i>Out of Hours Medical Services</i>	<i>(08454 220220)</i>
<i>Hospital Transport (Gill Lofts)</i>	<i>(674129)</i>
<i>GOWNS</i>	<i>(07752 152485)</i>
<i>Village Agent</i>	<i>(07810 630244) or 01452 426868</i>
<i>Borough Councillor Mel Gore</i>	<i>(07970 429832) melgore33@btinternet.com</i>
<i>County Councillor Rob Bird</i>	<i>(07711 269 096) robert.bird@gloucestershire.gov.uk</i>
<i>Garden House Nursery School</i>	<i>(07913256364/01386 81886)</i>
<i>Creative Writing Classes</i>	<i>(677170) amanda.reynolds@live.co.uk</i>
<i>Yoga [Tuesdays] Sarah Martin (269765)</i>	<i>sarahmartinyoga@hotmail.co.uk</i>

WINE CLUB

Contact: Christine Godsell on 672821 or candegodsell@tiscali.co.uk
www.gotherington.org.uk/wine-club

Another year, another Chairperson....we say goodbye and thank you to Iain Angus and Leo Horton who have stood down from the committee after many years of dedicated service.

Many thanks to Les Howard who did a wonderful job as Chairperson last year and has now taken over from Iain as Treasurer.

The Christmas party at the Shutters was a great success. It was enjoyed by all members and their guests and we had our own special entertainer in the form of Brian Black.

We have now entered our 41st year as a club and have a full program of events for 2017. If you have thought about joining the club why not come along and try us out. We normally have 6 different wines to taste and, on those months where we don't have a guest speaker, we have an in-house event which is always a lot of fun.

We meet every 3rd Tuesday at 8pm at the Village Hall and, after enjoying the wine tasting, we finish with a ploughman's supper - all in all it is a very enjoyable and social evening.

Finally, I know that some people think that the Wine Club is only for wine buffs and therefore you may feel that it is not for you - but nothing could be further from the truth. So please come along and find out for yourselves!

Howard Samuels, Chairperson

GOTHERINGTON RAINBOWS AND BROWNIES

Contact: Kirsten Stillman 673218 Gotheringtonbrownies@hotmail.co.uk

Rainbows

This term we are working towards a new Hands, Knees and Booms-a-daisy badge. The girls have made edible bonfires, kites and piñatas and learnt some new games. We have celebrated Thinking Day by learning about Rainbows around the world.

Rainbows are aged 5-7 years, and we meet in the village hall from 3.30-4.45pm on Mondays. We hold a waiting list, and it's a good idea to get girls' names down early to ensure that they can start when they turn 5. Please give me a call if you would like further information.

Brownies

We had a great "Chinese New Year" themed meeting – Alice Aalsey came and helped the girls to make and cook delicious Chinese dumplings. We have held a Brownies Got Talent night with a great array of entertainment and delicious cakes prepared by our hostesses. Sylvia Stokes has kindly helped us all plant sweet peas and is teaching us how to look after them.

This year we are celebrating our 50th birthday as a pack – so if you have any memories of Brownies in Gotherington over the last 50 years we would love to be able to share some of the history of the pack with the girls.

Brownies meet on Mondays in the village hall from 6-7.30pm and we welcome all girls between the ages of 7 and 10. We currently have a full pack, but we hold a waiting list, so if your daughter would like to join, please contact us on the email address above.

Kirsten Stillman

WEED MANAGEMENT

The Parish Council has two large sprayers complete with supplies of suitable weed killer which you can borrow. Please make use of this free service and help to keep Gotherington weed free. To make arrangements to borrow a sprayer, please phone Howard Samuels on 672492 or email hsamuels@brinternet.com

NEWS FROM THE VICAR!

Contact: email: richard.vicarage@gmail.com or phone:01242 675559

Churchwardens (Woolstone): Sarah Whitehead (674489) / Michael. Bower (672900)

Dear Friends

I write this short piece on Valentine's Day, the day of love, the day we have the opportunity to demonstrate our feelings to those who are closest to us.

If you are like me, you don't like being told when you should give flowers or send a card to someone you love. Surely it's much better for it to be a spontaneous action, a surprise for the recipient and not something dictated by greeting card manufacturers or florists.

A sign of true love is partly what we sacrifice for others. Giving up something of ourselves for the benefit of our loved ones. Jesus showed this when he died on the cross and this is something the Church remembers during the season of Lent, which we are currently in. It was God's demonstration of His love for us that He was prepared to give up Himself for the benefit of His beloved creation.

The cost of loving is great. I'm sure a lot of us have fallen in love with someone and for that love not to be reciprocated or when a relationship comes to an end and the pain that is felt. That is the risk of loving. Alfred Lord Tennyson puts this in perspective when he said, 'Tis better to have loved and lost than never to have loved at all.'

What are individuals, communities and nations prepared to give up to show their love for those they are called to care for? We see so much of people wanting to 'keep themselves to themselves' that they forget what being truly human is all about.

In one of Burt Bacharach's songs, and my favourite, he tells us 'What the world needs now is love, sweet love. It's the only thing that there's just too little of.' I couldn't agree more.

With my warmest regards

Richard Reakes, The Vicarage, Malleson Road, Gotherington

GOTHERINGTON, WOOLSTONE & OXENTON W.I.

Contacts President - Sally Newbury (01242 317276) - sally.newbury@gmail.com

Secretary - Rachel Slater (07884343612) - rachel.slater@btinternet.com

Treasurer - Myra Card - myracard123@tiscali.co.uk

We have been entertained, amused and educated by a variety of speakers over the past few months. We had a visitor in September when Grace joined us and was warmly welcomed. Grace was a small blade spaniel, who soon settled in as her owner, Merleen Watson, told us about 'Hearing Dogs for Deaf People' before calling on Grace to demonstrate her abilities. In October, Linette Isko brought a variety of hats and fascinators, which we all ended up wearing amongst a lot of chat, laughter and photo taking! November's talk by Andrew Gacek on 'The Life of a Cathedral Chorister' was interspersed with beautiful recordings of choir boys singing. Did you see the knitted poppies around the trees in the Promenade in November? Some of these were made by us in support of Remembrance Day.

Christmas was celebrated with a very enjoyable party where, after a Bring and Share supper, we were entertained by Dentith and Price, an Old Time Music Hall singing duo, who soon had us all joining in. Several members also attended the GFWI Christmas Concerts in the Town Hall, where Laura Wright was the guest singer.

In January, we learnt some amazing facts about the 'The Clever Honey Bee' from Allan Wells. Spring meetings will include talks on Sue Ryder, Family Trees and Belly Dancing our way through the housework – that should raise some laughs! We shall also have our Birthday Party in April.

Aside from talks, we enjoy monthly lunches at local pubs and at Rosie and John's, meetings of the art group and we are planning a skittles evening and another Willow Weaving course. Life is never dull with our WI!

We meet in Gotherington Village Hall at 7.30 p.m. on the 4th Wednesday of the month and new members and visitors are always very welcome – we look forward to seeing you!

Jill Parsons

GOTHERINGTON TENNIS CLUB

Contact: Andrew Harrington 677039 or Ian Donnelly on 674404
<http://www.gotherington.org.uk/tennis.asp> <https://www.facebook.com/GotheringtonTennis>

The new season is nearly upon us and 2017 promises to be a very exciting one for Gotherington tennis club. Following a very successful 2016 where membership continued to grow, social tennis thrived and all 4 teams performed well in the Gloucestershire leagues. The club intend to keep the momentum going with new initiatives planned for 2017 to enhance the whole tennis experience.

The courts have been professionally cleaned, new nets have been installed and we are all ready to go. However, the biggest and most noticeable change from 2016 is the construction of the John Woolley Pavilion. This is a magnificent asset to the village and the Tennis Club feel very fortunate to have access to a building that is sure to be the envy of all other clubs in the area.

The club caters for all standards of players with the emphasis on fun and enjoyment for all. Annual fees remain at £60 for adults, £10 for juniors and reduced fees for veterans. Included as part of the annual subscription is access to an extensive club coaching scheme that runs throughout the season. I know of no other club in Gloucestershire that offers professional coaching as part of it's subscription and as such the club offers excellent value for money.

Summer play commences on Sunday 2nd April as follows:

Monday Evening	from 6:30pm	Mixed doubles
Wednesday Evening	from 6:30pm	Men's and Ladies doubles
Friday Afternoon	12:30 to 15:30	Doubles
Sunday Morning	9:30 to 12:30	Doubles

Finally the club would like to thank the Parish Council for its continued support for tennis in the village - it is very much appreciated.

Ian Donnelly

GARDENING CLUB

Contact: Rob Cronin (321644) / Pam Howell 673015
www.gotherington.org.uk/gardening-club

Springtime is upon us and when your soil is in a planting condition it is time to get planting vegetables and onion sets - white and red plus shallots can go in (red onions are a sweeter flavour and not quite as hot). Also, broad beans like "The Sutton" do well for spring planting.

Seeds to be planted are leeks, onions (if you prefer to grow them from seed rather than sets) and of course peas - "Feltham First" are a good early variety. And don't forget to plant salad items like lettuce and radish etc, in the greenhouse.

Tomatoes can be started in heated conditions and there are so many varieties and colours to choose from nowadays. A variety to grow for quantity and which the children like are "Gardeners Delight".

Also, it is time to think about planting flower seeds in the greenhouse although these days many people find it is easier to buy plants later on at the garden centres. And if you like to grow your own rhubarb, don't forget to start forcing it!

Odd jobs to be done are cleaning the greenhouse and garden frames (inside and out) and creosoting sheds and fences. And while you're at it, keep looking in the garden for slugs in hiding places under stones, and bushes. They are a terrible pest and we do not all like using pellets to control them.

Gotherington Gardening Club meets at 8:00 in the Village Hall on the third Wednesday of every month except August. We have a varied and interesting programme of speakers and several special events. Guests and visitors are always welcome.

Happy Gardening.

Graham Teale

GOTHERINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

Contact: schooloffice@gotherington.gloucs.sch.uk Tel: 01242 675454
<http://www.gotherington.gloucs.sch.uk>

The term continues at great pace and there have already been a number of memorable events. The school promoted Internet safety with a number of thought-provoking sessions aimed at raising pupil awareness of how to stay safe online. We were also supported by two assemblies which were led by Police Community Support Officer Wayne Lippett.

The school also held a 'Number Day' in support of NSPCC. The children were encouraged to 'Dress up for digits' and this gave rise to some amazing costumes and ideas to promote Mathematics.

This term we said good-bye to some long-serving members of staff. Mrs Gassor, Mrs Ketley and Mrs Szolga are all moving on to new things and we wish them all the very best in the future.

The Governing Body held their Annual General Meeting at which the school accounts were presented and questions taken regarding the future of school funding. With a new national funding formula being discussed by the Department for Education, it is clear that Gloucestershire schools will once again lose out.

Despite on-going cuts to funding, we continue to work really hard to raise standards and ensure the very best opportunities for every pupil at Gotherington.

And finally, in addition to the defibrillator which is situated on the outside of the Rex Rhodes building, another defibrillator has also been fitted at Gotherington Primary School. It should be noted however that it is situated within the school building so is not available for use outside the hours of 8.30 to 4pm, or during weekends and school holidays.

Ben Jordan, Headteacher Gotherington Primary School

GOTHERINGTON PETANQUE CLUB

Contact: David Ward on 675080 or Christine Godsell on 672821
www.gotherington.org.uk/petanque

By the time you read this we will have had some much-needed work done to our playing area. After so many years the surrounding wood was rotting and the area was sorely in need of an overhaul.

Soon there will also be a small shelter as well, since the "Petanquers" are a hardy lot and play all through the year no matter what the weather. We host some tournaments for outside clubs too so somewhere to shelter from a sudden downpour has been needed for a long time and will be most welcome.

Unlike other clubs, we have our Seasonal Party after Christmas. So in January we had a skittles and supper event at The Shutters where we were looked after very well and had a splendid evening.

Our programme for 2017 kicks off in March with a tournament for which we have invited other Petanque clubs to join us. This is now an eagerly anticipated and well-established event. Then, in addition to our normal play, we will be busy with monthly events until September, after which we will settle back to a more casual approach through the winter.

Why don't you come and see what the fun is all about. Our play sessions are detailed on the back of Topics, with phone numbers. Call or just turn up. You need not have any boules to begin, we can always lend you some until you settle in. Subscriptions are extremely low so a lot of fun with little outlay. Come on – give it a try. You never know how good you can be until you have thrown a boules or three. (Oooh – that's a bit poetic!)

SEE YOU ON THE PISTE!

Christine Godsell Secretary

PARENT AND TODDLER GROUP

Contact: Katie Tuffery on 07793 885847

gottheringtontoddlers@hotmail.co.uk

During the last few months we have been working and playing hard at Toddlers. The group continues to thrive and we see lots of new faces and regulars on a weekly basis.

The Christmas party was a great success with Sarah the Fairy providing the entertainment and Father Christmas finding time to come and meet the children. We are now looking forward to the Easter party where the children will be entertained by Julia from Boogie Beat and will get to meet the Easter bunny who is hopping over for the afternoon!

Many of our parents attended and helped out at the Christmas Quiz, helping to raise money for the Toddler group and a local charity. Our parents also provided cakes and help for the monthly coffee morning, this time helping to raise money for the Village Hall.

Our new activities co-ordinator, Jacinthe Mainguy, has organised many lovely activities from fox mobiles to magical fairy wands and has plans for a range of fun craft activities for the coming months.

We have recently had new shelving installed in the store cupboard to enable us to more easily store equipment safely and tidily - a big thank you to the Village Hall for providing and installing this.

We continue to meet in the Village Hall on Tuesdays and Fridays, 9.30 - 11.30. As a parent-run group we rely on volunteers to make sure the sessions can take place each week. We have some very dedicated parents and carers who regularly commit to volunteering and I would like to thank them for their continued support. In the next few months a number of committee posts will be coming available so we will be looking for new people to take on these roles, so if anybody is interested please let me know.

Katie Tuffery

GOTHERINGTON SINGERS

www.gotheringtonsingers.co.uk

Fifty years ago, musician Margaret Crompton came to live in Gotherington, decided to start a choir, and 'Gotherington Singers' was born. Margaret has now retired and we are under the leadership of Musical Director Jane Ward Watts. We will be celebrating our 50th anniversary with a Gala Concert.

Many long-standing friends of the choir will be joining us, including baritone John Qualtrough, harmonica player Carol Axford, pianist Lee Axford, Charlton Kings Junior School Choir and the Gloucester Excelsior Band. We will also be giving the first performance of 'Love and Go On', a song commissioned by the choir in memory of Barbara Murrell, who lived in Gotherington, and sang with the choir for many years.

"GOTHERINGTON SINGERS AND FRIENDS"

*Friday 12th May 2017, 7.30 pm, Princess Hall,
The Cheltenham Ladies' College, Bayshill Road, Cheltenham
GL50 3EP.*

*We will be supporting the Gloucester & Tewkesbury branch of
the RNLI.*

*Do come and join us for a happy and entertaining evening of
music and song. Tickets £10.00 from 01242 620775*

Gotherington Singers meet on Mondays at 7.45 pm, alternating between Gotherington Village Hall and Bethesda Methodist Church, Great Norwood Street, Cheltenham. If you are interested in joining the choir, come along to one of our practices, where you will be made very welcome.

*For more information contact Vivien Nicholson Mobile: 07976624736
Email: vivien.nicholson@gmail.com*

Vivien

GOWNS

Contact: 07752 152485

Many residents are fortunate in having friends and neighbours who are happy to provide occasional help. The Gotherington, Oxenton and Woolstone Neighbour Scheme (aka GOWNS) was set up several years ago, to bring together those who have no such contacts – isolated by age, reduced mobility, new to the villages – with the many who are happy to give assistance if they are made aware of the need.

With the support of the Parish Church and the Parish Council, there are now over twenty households who have offered themselves as volunteers. Their role is not to replace professionals or specialists. The most usual requests are for occasional transport, assistance with setting up technology, companionship for the housebound, minor household tasks etc. but we have the expertise available to cope with all sorts of problems! There is no charge for assistance although the client is responsible for fuel costs, parking fees or any similar expenses. The service is open to any resident who requires help and is not just for the retired.

Bookings are made by calling the GOWNS mobile phone (07752 152485).

Calls are handled by a group of co-ordinators who circulate the mobile phone on a weekly basis. This means that callers may speak to any one of six different volunteers.

They are happy to receive calls during normal working hours and prefer 48 hours' notice if possible to allow time to phone around the rest of the volunteers to fulfil requests.

Ellen Cooke

LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Contacts: Caroline Meller (677489) / Jill Collins (672848)

www.gotherington.org.uk/history-society and Twitter @GotheringtonLHS

Water Project

Throughout the centuries, water has played an essential role in the history of our village. Several members of the LHS are undertaking research at the moment in order to draw together all the information on the subject: wells, village pump, reservoirs, debates, floods If you have a well in your garden, your deeds show your house was connected to the estate water system, or indeed if you have a story to tell about the 2007 floods then please get in touch with either Caroline or Jill as the more information we can gather the better.

Talks

Although we are nearing the end of our current season of talks in the village hall, it is still worth highlighting those to come especially as we have some excellent speakers lined up. On Tuesday 28th March Dr. Ray Wilson will talk about the mills on the River Chelt. On April 25th Dr. Steven Blake will explain how the Pittville Estate developed into 'A Scene of Gorgeous Magnificence'. Finally, on May 30th, we welcome back Alan Pilbeam to talk about the history of the River Severn.

All the meetings begin at 8pm at the village hall. If you are not a member but would like to attend one of these talks then entry is £2. This also includes refreshments and an opportunity to browse through a large selection of local history books.

At least two outings are being planned for the summer months details of which will appear on the LHS web page and via social media.

Why not take a look at our 'On this day in history' tweets? We also publicise our events via Twitter and Facebook.

Caroline Meller Chair, Gotherington and Area Local History Society

NEWS FROM THE NURSERIES

Contact: Phone 01242 676722

www.gotheringtonnurseries.co.uk

It's all go at the Nurseries now that Spring is here. The shop is ready for the season ahead and we are working hard on the production side. We have early spring bedding plants already and production of the annual summer bedding plants is well under way.

The outdoor plant area is filling up with shrubs, trees, roses, herbs, vegetable plants, cottage garden plants and rockery plants. For container gardening, we have a great choice of terracotta and glazed pots including the beautiful heritage range, as well as pots and hanging baskets already planted up for sale. We stock a comprehensive range of specialist composts including peat free and decorative gravels.

The shop is full of many varieties of seed potatoes, onion sets, shallots, flower and vegetable seeds as well as summer flowering bulbs. We have all kinds of "grow your own" products whether you have a small vegetable plot or an allotment. Visit us for all your gardening needs. We have an amazing range of specialist bird care products too. See us on Facebook and Twitter for regular updates.

*Don't forget Mothering Sunday is on 26th March followed by Easter mid-April. Come and look at the beautiful plants, planted containers and other gift ideas we have available. Remember we will be open all over the long Easter weekend, **except** Easter Day (Sunday).*

Have you joined our reward scheme? The more you spend the greater the reward. Reward points can be collected at the Nurseries and Toddington Garden Centre and spent at either place.

We would like to thank you for your custom and look forward to seeing you during the season.

Happy gardening!

Mark and Liz, Gotherington Nurseries

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

www.gotherington.org.uk/neighbourhood-watch

John Hicks (Long Furlong Park) 676848 Mary Manders-Trett 674592 Howard Samuels 672492

Reporting an emergency 999 or 112

Reporting non-emergencies 101

Action Fraud 0300 123 2040

Crime Stoppers 0800 555 111

Gotherington has an overall crime rate lower than the average across England and the percentage of people satisfied with their neighbourhood is higher than the average across England, so all in all a wonderful Village to live in! In this edition I would like to give the following advice:

MOBILE SCAMS - these are when you are asked to call back numbers you don't recognise - especially if the number starts with 084, 087, 070, or 090 because these numbers may charge premium rates.

COLD CALLERS - be suspicious of all "too good to be true" offers, particularly when they offer to do work on your property. Always request a written quote and get further quotes from reputable companies. Never pay in full for work until it is complete and you are happy with the outcome. Never feel pressured to immediately agree to work or any other offer. Insist on taking time to make a decision.

If you spot suspicious activity or have been a victim of crime yourself, report it to Action Fraud (actionfraud.police.uk) or call 0300 123 2040.

Howard Samuels

VILLAGE BOOK

Aspects of Community Life in the Great War

This book, written by three local residents, gives a detailed insight into what our area was like during the period of the Great War: the importance of the Band of Hope, what you could expect if as a child you attended our village school, the outbreaks of crime and how everyone coped whilst a young generation of men were away defending their freedom. The book, priced £8.99 is on sale at the village shop or via the authors: David Griffiths, Caroline Meller, and Jacquie Waine.

GOTHERINGTON NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Back in October we were informed that, because Tewkesbury Borough Council could not demonstrate a 5-year housing land supply, the GNDP could not be given much weight. Liz Beth was suggested by TBC and accepted by our parish council as the GNDP Examiner. Her examination of the GNDP started in January.

The GNDP is progressing well and a Public Hearing has been arranged for 23rd March at TBC to explore what alterations should be made, if any, to the plan in light of recent planning permissions and whether any alterations should be made to the proposed settlement boundary.

TBC Planners considered three major planning applications: one from Gallagher for 90 dwellings on The Meadow – later reduced to 50, and another for 50 houses in Malleson Road. TBC permitted only 10 dwellings in Gretton Road instead of the 24 suggested in our NDP. Development of Truman's Farm was refused.

Initially TBC Planners recommended a delegated permit on the development of the Meadow, but TBC were then able to announce that they have a 5-year housing land supply which would give the GNDP more weight. A site Inspection by TBC Planners took place which was attended by many residents and, as I am sure you are aware, TBC Planners voted overwhelmingly on February 14th to REFUSE planning permission on the Meadow.

Following the Public Hearing, we hope that the Inspector will allow our GNDP to progress towards the referendum and be "made" during May or June. Once the GNDP is in place it will be a much stronger defence against appeals by the developers on Truman's Farm and The Meadow.

David Ward, GNDP Chairman

THE JOHN WOOLLEY SPORTS PAVILION

Hopefully, you will have seen that the redevelopment of the old tennis hut area into our brand new village pavilion is now complete. This is dedicated to the memory of JOHN WOOLLEY in recognition of his many years of service to the village.

It takes the form of a 9m x 5m log cabin built in Siberian larch and a 1.5m veranda with balustrade which was shipped in directly from Scandinavia in November. It took 4 weeks to complete and we hope everyone will agree that, with the new turf and "hoggin" path, it is a very impressive facility which the whole village can be proud of.

It has full disabled access including a ramp onto the veranda via a removable section of the balustrade. There is also a wheelchair accessible toilet installed. Inside it has teak tables and rattan chairs, a fridge plus all crockery, cutlery and sundries to accommodate 16 people. Additional tables and chairs can be made available if necessary.

While this pavilion has been built with the co-operation of the Tennis Club which will have full access to use for matches and club sessions, at other times it is available to hire just like the Village Hall or Rex Rhodes building.

So if you would like to hold a children's tennis, football or cricket party, or if you are looking for an alternative venue for your bridge club or simply have a family get together you cannot accommodate at home, then our new "J.W.P." might be perfect for you.

If you would like to see inside, please contact Bev Osborne or Howard Samuels. You can also see a promotional video on the village website, on our Facebook page or at <https://vimeo.com/194376920>.

Bev Osborne

VILLAGE HALL COFFEE MORNINGS

Contact: Christine Godsell on 01242 672821 or email candegodsell@tiscali.co.uk

Were YOU there at the February coffee morning? If not, you missed a good time. After the January break it seems you always look forward to coffee mornings with a mix of excitement, anticipation and relief that we are back to normal. You turn up in your wonderfully noisy groups and it lifts everyone's spirits. Thank you for coming.

Can you believe it was November 2008 when we started this venture. We banked a hugely pleasurable amount of £67 that time. But it was only a matter of 2 months before we were regularly banking £100 plus.

Since then it has slowly crept up. Now we are able to bank £150 or thereabouts - sometimes up to £200, sometimes a little less. Amazing! You have boosted the Village Hall coffers because as you know, that is where all our profit goes.

We couldn't achieve this without the help of the Coffee Morning Team and, more importantly, the "user groups" who bring delicious selections of cakes and run the kitchen so superbly.

Then of course there are the "punters"....YOU, dear readers, are the most important people of all. It makes it all so worthwhile to see you come in happy and smiling, raise the roof with your chatter, and generally make the morning what it is.

So, a massive thank you to everyone who is involved – from the humble washer-up to the daintiest cake-eater. See you again in March.

Christine Godsell, Gotherington Village Hall Coffee Mornings

GOTHERINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Contact: David Hearn on 674408 or clerk@gotherinton.org.uk

Recently, there have been a number of changes to the Parish Council. Firstly, we welcome Brian Cosgrove to the Council to replace Les Howard who resigned for personal reasons. Brian is well known in the village for his activities with the Village Cricket Club and will bring to the Council his experience as a senior manager. More recently the Council has lost David Ward. His efforts with the Neighbourhood Plan are appreciated and I am sure that I speak for the whole Council in thanking him for his efforts and wish him well in the future.

We were all pleased with the refusal by the TBC Planning Committee of the application to place an extensive development on The Meadow. The developers have tabled their intention to appeal this decision, but the refusal will buy time for the completion of the NDP, which could be enough to stop the development. However, we should all be aware that the fight has not yet been won.

Efforts to determine the feasibility of obtaining the Church Centre are progressing. It is the intention of the Council to obtain the opinions of the village prior to making a decision on whether to proceed, but before this the costs involved in the purchase and renovation needs to be obtained. These actions are progressing with the owners and possible contractors.

Work on the Petanque Piste is underway together with the building of a Rain Shelter which should be available for the summer season.

Finally, a request from the Parish Council - dedicated dog mess bins are located near roads so county council contractors can empty them easily. The square litter bin near the tennis courts is emptied by village volunteers and poo bags deposited in it make this a very unpleasant task. Please only place poo bags in the dedicated dog mess bins.

David Hearn, Chairperson

VILLAGE HALL

Contact: Peter Price-Thomas (Chairman) 07740 871987/ Bev Osborne (Bookings) 675741
gotheringtonvillagehall.btck.co.uk

The Village Hall was, as ever, a hive of activity during the winter months, acting as a hub for clubs and societies, as well as providing a venue for numerous Christmas parties, quizzes and concerts, to take place. It also played host to the monthly coffee mornings with fantastic home-baked cakes being served alongside delicious bacon rolls, with accompanying tea and coffee (ongoing, on the 1st Saturday of every month, except December).

As detailed more fully elsewhere in Topics, there is now a new online booking system for the Village Hall, as well as the Rex Rhodes Building and the new Sports Pavilion. Please go to www.gotherington.org.uk and select the 'Bookings' tab to make a booking.

We will also be installing a new heating system in the Village Hall in the next couple of months. This was precipitated by one of our three rather elderly heaters giving up the ghost, though thankfully the remaining two appear to have tided us over until the new system can be installed.

We have the Village Hall Annual General Meeting coming up on Wednesday 20th May at 7:00 pm. If you use the Village Hall or have ideas for things that we could improve, then please do come along.

In addition, we are always looking for more people to become actively involved with the committee. The roles are not particularly onerous so please do get in contact if you are interested.

The Village Hall enables Gotherington to flourish. Please help us to continue to ensure that it does.

Peter Price-Thomas, Chairman

NEW ON-LINE BOOKING SYSTEM FOR GOTHERINGTON

To bring the village into the 21st century, the Parish Council and the Village Hall Management Committee have entered into a joint venture to set up an on-line booking system. This will be a single point of contact for all facilities within the village.

To make a booking simply go to www.gotherington.org.uk and select the BOOKINGS tab at the top right hand side.

This opens a window which allows you to select which facility you would like to book;

- Tennis courts and pavilion
- Freeman Field (top field/bottom field/entire field)
- Village Hall
- Rex Rhodes building

There is also an instruction to "Click on the Email address below and complete the template." And below this will be the calendar for that facility so you can check availability at the time you require.

To make the booking, simply fill in the email template and the booking secretary will reply as soon as possible.

If you are a group member or private hirer you can confirm your bookings in the calendar shown on that page.

Please note; casual hire of the tennis courts is unaffected and will still be via the booking sheets with payment into the honesty box at the usual rate. However casual hirers may use the on-line calendar in advance to check there is no prior booking from the club or private parties.

To protect personal information, any "one-off" booking will be marked only as "private party" and so will not contain any personal information visible to the public.

If you have any suggestions on how this system can be improved please contact the booking secretary on Bev.osborne@hotmail.com.

Bev Osborne