

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	Churchwardens (Woolstone)	Richard Reakes (675559) richard.vicarage@gmail.com Sarah Whitehead (674489) / Michael. Bower (672900)	
Football Club (Junior)		Rob Sharp (678057)	
Gardening Club	3rd Wed 8pm	Rob Cronin (321644) / Cathy Thompson (676708)	
Gotherington Singers	1 st ,3 rd &5 th Mon 8pm	Sue Adamson (676087)	
Local History Society	4th Tue 8pm	Caroline Meller (677489) / Jill Collins (672848)	
Parent and Toddler Group	Tue, Fri 9.30am	rachel@avasoft.co.uk (07769 854004)	
Neighbourhood Watch		John Hicks (676848) / Mary Manders-Trett (674592) Howard Samuels (672492) / Phil Smith (672970) Les Howard 677949 / Berian Thomas 674397	
Oxenton Village Hall Oxenton Village Bookings		Chairman: Jenny Lockwood (676597) / Secretary: Linda Howard Valerie Martin (673233)	
Parish Council	2nd Tue 7.30pm	David Hearn (674408) david@hearn.demon.co.uk 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 Secretary Bookings co-ordinator Treasurer	Peter Price-Thomas / Bev Osborne (675741) Christine Godsell (672821) Bev Osborne (675741) Howard Samuels (672492)	
Village Hall Coffee Mornings. 1st Sat excl Jan & Aug		Christine Godsell (672821)/ Bev Osborne (675741)	
Wine Club	Chairperson 3rd Tue 8pm Secretary	Howard Samuels (672492) hsamuels@btinternet.com Christine Godsell (672821) candegodsell@tiscali.co.uk	
W.I.	4th Wed 7.30pm President Secretary Treasurer	Sally Newbury (01242 317276) - sall.newbury@gmail.com Rosemary Bishton (677290) - rosemary.bishton1@btinternet.com Myra Card - myracard123@tiscali.co.uk	



Gotherington Topics Spring 2018

Just when you thought we were free of elections, look what happened, “**they**” called a Village Referendum! But not to worry, it wasn’t important, it was only about that old building after all. No need to have bothered voting, it wasn’t **my** problem – “**they**” could sort it out.

But that would’ve been a serious mistake. Like it or not, the decision would affect us all in the end, one way or another. For example, **you** might not be in any Clubs or Societies at present - but that might change and what if you aren’t able to find space for a future party or activity? Or **you** might not have been concerned over the potential loss of one of the oldest buildings in Gotherington – but if it was lost, it can’t be brought back. Or **you** might not have been happy about the Village taking on such a large loan - even though some suggested it’d pay for itself in time.

So, there were countless ways in which this decision might’ve impacted you personally but it has **already** affected us all as a Community. It bitterly divided opinion as never before and set friends and neighbours against each other. And if that wasn’t bad enough, there wasn’t even a right or wrong answer – only a matter of opinion. So, how can we repair the damage that has already been done?

The answer was to have the Referendum and since I’m writing this before the vote, I don’t know what happened. But that doesn’t matter and actually nor does the result! The most important thing was always going to be that, for our Community to be healed and to thrive once again, we must now **ALL** accept the outcome.

The Editor

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GOTHERINGTON BROWNIES

Contact Kirsten Stillman tel 673218 or email gotheringtonbrownies@hotmail.co.uk

We had a great trip to the Everyman for the pantomime before Christmas with lots of excited girls! This term we have celebrated the Chinese "Year of the Dog" and completed a gorgeous Unicorn badge for which the girls all made their own unique unicorn hobbyhorse!

On 22nd February we celebrated Thinking Day, the birthday of the founders of Scouting and Guiding, Lord and Lady Baden Powell. We had an evening thinking about Brownies around the world and our impact on the world and finished with a District Disco to raise funds.

We are going to be trying our hand at Archery later this term and look forward to spending more time outdoors as the evenings get lighter.

Girls may join Brownies when they are age 7. We have a waiting list, but if you would like to add your daughter to this then please get in touch. We meet in the Village Hall on Mondays from 6-7.30pm.

GOTHERINGTON RAINBOWS

Contact Kirsten Stillman tel 673218 or email gotheringtonbrownies@hotmail.co.uk

The girls have been on a virtual Global Adventure to earn their latest badge. This entailed making Passports and then 'visiting': Africa to create our own zebra patterns; China for Chinese New Year; Australia to do some dot art painting; America to learn about Daisies (the American equivalent to Rainbows) and to make our own "dream catchers". The girls also enjoyed learning some new songs and playing some new games from around the world.

Rainbows are aged 5-7 years old. Please get in touch if you would like to add your daughter to the waiting list. We meet on Mondays from 3.30-4.45pm in the village hall.

Kirsten

TOPICS OF INTEREST

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

The next edition (Summer) is due out during the week starting 16th July 2018.

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

Rodney Churchill	662837
Brian Cosgrove	676216
Lewis Harmer	671050
David Hearn (Chairman)	674408
Eddie McLarnon	673079
Beverley Osborne	675741
Caroline Ryman	673707
Howard Samuels (Vice Chair)	672492

Contacts – General

Gotherington P.O. & Stores	(672249) www.gotheringtonvillagestore.co.uk
Gotherington Nurseries	(676722) www.gotheringtonnurseries.co.uk
The Shutters	(01242 300240)
Gotherington Primary School	(675454)
Doctor's Stoke Road	(674676)
Doctor's Greyholme Surgery	(672669)
Out of Hours Medical Services	(08454 220220)
Hospital Transport (Gill Lofts)	(674129)
GOWNS	(07752 152485)
Village Agent	(07810 630244) or 01452 426868
Borough Councillor Mel Gore	(07970 429832) melgore33@btinternet.com
County Councillor Rob Bird	(07711 269 096) robert.bird@gloucestershire.gov.uk
Garden House Nursery School	(07913256364/01386 81886)
Yoga [Tuesdays] Sarah Martin (269765)	sarahmartinyoga@hotmail.co.uk

WINE CLUB

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

2018! - where did 2017 go? Last year's Wine Taster of the Year award went to Cora Ramesh - a worthy winner who now keeps the Winner's Shield for a year. I'm sure it sits proudly on her display cabinet.

The Wine Club party, held again at the Shutters, was well supported. We had a wonderful time, the food was delicious, we were well looked after by the staff and the Christmas decorations in the dining area were first class!

Our AGM was well attended and we said goodbye to two committee members, Angela Thomas and Lynn Boast. Many thanks to them both for their help and enthusiasm and all of the work that they have put in while on the committee. We now welcome two new committee members, Cora Ramesh and Allen Keyte - both experienced in the art of wine appreciation!

The AGM is where the Chair does the talk and presentation, and this year the theme was cheap vs expensive wines. We had 2 different whites and 2 different reds (16 bottles in all) and it was most interesting that the cheaper price wines came out top 5 times out of 8 - make what you will of this....

We have a busy schedule this year starting with Laithwaites Wines as guest presenters in February. Then in March we have a new concept in that Miles Morgan Travel will talk about a river cruise down the Rhine with wine tasting from the area of each port of call. Please see the Gotherington Wine Club Facebook page which details all forthcoming events and other useful information.

We always welcome new members to the Wine Club and if you think it may not be for you, please come along for an evening. Hopefully you will enjoy the event, come again and even become a member. We meet every 3rd Tuesday at 8pm at the Village Hall. Normally six different wines are on offer to taste and this is followed by a ploughman's supper and a time to relax and chat.

Howard Samuels, Chairperson

NEWS FROM THE VICAR!

Contact: email: richard.vicarage@gmail.com or phone:01242 675559
Churchwardens (Woolstone): Sarah Whitehead (674489) / Michael. Bower (672900)

I thought it might be helpful to say why the local Anglican (the Church of England) church has given a contribution to Gotherington Parish Council towards the purchase of the old Free Church (otherwise known as The Church Centre).

In the early 1970s there was a question mark over the future of Woolstone Church as its tower was leaning and was in danger of falling down. So a group of people decided to raise money to build an Anglican church in Gotherington as this was felt to be a more appropriate place to have a place of worship since it was where most people lived. However, money was also raised to restore the tower at Woolstone and in due course this is what happened. The money raised towards a new church in Gotherington, which was then unused, was put into a separate Church fund.

When, some years ago, the Free Church sadly closed, we leased the building for a while, calling it 'The Church Centre'. However, in 2016 it was felt we had to relinquish the lease due to its declining condition. Later in 2016 Gotherington Parish Council considered buying the building from its owners for the benefit of the whole community. Following a request from the Parish Council for support, the Parochial Church Council (PCC) agreed in 2017 to contribute to the project using the money held in the separate Church fund.

It is the hope of the PCC that a refurbished building will benefit the whole village in many ways. One of these might in due course be the opportunity for the Church of England to use the space for occasional worship, for mid-week luncheons for older members of our community and other possibilities in the future to bring the village together.

With my warmest regards,

Richard Reakes, The Vicarage, Malleon Road, Gotherington

CRICKET CLUB

www.gotheringtoncc.org.uk

Contact: Brian Cosgrove on 676216 or info@gotheringtoncc.org

Last season had a number of noteworthy highlights. Our u13 team swept all before them to win their league with 12 wins out of 12 - a tremendous achievement under the guidance of Brian and Yvonne Cosgrove and with skills development from Gecko who we use to provide specialist coaching on Saturday mornings. These coaching sessions are attended by the younger ages as well and will hopefully lead to more cricketers staying involved with the game. Our u15 side had a good season and finished runners-up in their league, narrowly pipped by Tewkesbury for the title. Thank you to Craig Sprigmore for all his hard work. Jack Savage, one of our u10 players, has been included in the county squad - so well done to him. Christian Jonker, who represented Gotherington as a guest player some years ago, has been included in the South African T20 squad to play India.

The Senior Team had a good season overall with some outstanding performances including a win at Windsor Castle against the Royal Household Cricket Club. We were treated to a superb post match BBQ of the standard you might expect at such a prestigious venue. We look forward to the RHCC returning to Gotherington in 2018 for our 4th fixture against them (the date for this game is 16/6/2018). We also hosted, and unexpectedly secured a win against, the Standard Athletic Club of Paris. It was an excellent game and many thanks to Bev Osborne for stepping in to provide an excellent tea and also the Shutters for laying on a Curry afterwards. We have been invited for a return fixture in Paris with dates confirmed as 7/8/9 September 2018.

Edward Gillespie, our Fixtures Secretary, has created an excellent fixture list and we look forward to games against the likes of Dumbleton, Stowell Park, Apperley, and the Commoners, not to mention The Royal Household and The Standard Athletic Club of Paris.

A final note, this year Coaching starts on Saturday morning, 21st April.

Rob Sharp, Chairman GCC

GOTHERINGTON, WOOLSTONE & OXENTON W.I.

Contacts President - Sally Newbury (01242 317276) - sall.newbury@gmail.com
Secretary - Rosemary Bishton (01242 677290) - rosemary.bishton1@btinternet.com
Treasurer - Myra Card - myracard123@tiscali.co.uk

www.gwowi.org.uk

This Autumn, Steve and Helen Wilkes brought some beautiful slides of birds, butterflies, flowers and lemurs to illustrate their recent holiday in Madagascar and Jan Long told us many humorous tales about her life as a Churchwarden during which she faced some unexpected events including a full-scale fight which broke out in the middle of a wedding!

In November, Pam Howell showed us how to decorate a cake in half an hour! She was so skilful that, having shown us how to create beautiful sugar roses out of just three circles of fondant icing, many of us will give it a try. Christmas time was busy with various meals out and, of course, our party. This was held in Oxenton Village Hall where, after a lovely supper, we were taken back to our younger days with songs from 'The Young Ones'. Wynne Evans was the guest singer at the GFWI Christmas Concert in the Town Hall. Not only a wonderful singer but a comedian as well!

January had us puzzling over twenty mystery objects brought along by Sandra Ashenford. Most of us recognised the curling tongs but the pewter hand warmer beat most of us. The following day, several members went to hear Michael Portillo at the Town Hall. This was a fundraiser for Denman, the WI College in Oxfordshire. He was an excellent speaker, very amusing and he looked very stylish in his orange jacket.

At the moment we are knitting hearts and flowers for a huge exhibition at the Malvern Spring Show in aid of Sue Ryder and other craft activities are being planned for the rest of the year. We have a varied programme of talks booked for 2018, not to mention our Art Group and pub lunch club - see our website for full details www.gwowi.org.uk. Do come and join us!

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

VILLAGE HALL COFFEE MORNINGS

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

Another year begins – and so do the Coffee Mornings. If they are as successful as in previous years, they will be well attended and enjoyed by all. So please, encourage your neighbours and friends to come along - they may be pleasantly surprised. We have something for everyone: tea, coffee, hot chocolate, cake, bacon rolls.....and for the little-ones, their own table with colouring books and pencils. If you are a tad unsteady on your feet, please remember to call GOWNS for a lift and we will help you when you arrive. And remember, we have disabled access at the side of the building.

Sadly, I don't think we shall have so many Craft tables this year. So, when you are out and about the county visiting Spring Fairs and Summer Fetes, keep your eyes open for anyone who may be appreciated by our visitors and who might like to give us a try. Please pass on my details, or get theirs. I will be happy to contact them to explain what we are all about.

And, just one more thing, if I may - many of you now appreciate that we sell a small selection of cakes. We are happy to sell any that is left at the end of our coffee morning - occasionally even a whole cake is available. We won't make a full charge for these, but please bear in mind when you are making an offer that they are all home-made - someone has put a great deal of time and effort into baking them with sumptuous ingredients. Our price per slice is already very good value, so please show your appreciation of their efforts by making a realistic offer.

As in all good cartoons– That's all Folks!

Take care and see you on the first Saturday of each month.

Christine Godsell, Gotherington Village Hall Coffee Mornings

GOTHERINGTON GARDENING CLUB

Contact: Cathy Thompson 676708; email: gary.cathy.thompson@btinternet.com
<http://gotherington.org.uk/gardening-club/>

I am very excited to be entering my second year as club Chairman. Last year our programme was packed full of interesting and entertaining speakers, fabulous garden visits and how could I forget the marvellous Garden and Christmas parties!

We are always looking to welcome new members. Whether you are an active or an armchair gardener, or don't know much about plants or just appreciate the beauty of gardens and the natural world, Gotherington Gardening Club has something for you.

We meet in the Village Hall on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 8p.m for about an hour. Annual highlights include our Garden Party in June, Christmas Party and two garden visits during the year.

Topics for our next few talks include;

- **March 21st – Croome's Walled Garden by Chris Cronin** (no relation!). Owner of the largest walled garden in Europe.
- **April 18th – David Austin, a new style of rose.** The history and development of English roses. You might have one in your garden!
- **May 16th – William Shakespeare, the Gardener** – Plants in Shakespeare's plays (plants will be for sale)
- **June 2nd – Village Hall Coffee Morning** – Plants for sale, advice available, great cakes baked by our members!

Why not come to a free taster session? The annual subscription is only £8 a year.

For more information please contact our Secretary, Cathy Thompson (see above), or pick up a copy of the full programme from Gotherington Village Stores.

Rob Cronin, Chairman

NEWS FROM THE NURSERIES

www.gotheringtonnurseries.co.uk

Contact: Phone 01242 676722

After suffering a lot of snow damage to our glasshouses during the winter and having the road closed for two months, we are now pushing on with production and hoping that the weather starts to warm up.

The shop is ready for the season ahead and we have a new supplier of tools, gloves and "Cloggies". Seed-potatoes, onion sets, and shallots, with garlic bulbs, flower and vegetable seeds as well as summer flowering bulbs are in stock now. We have all kinds of "grow your own" products including a new range of cold frames. Remember to visit us for all your gardening needs and also an amazing range of specialist bird care products too.

Our home-grown early spring bedding plants are ready now. The outdoor plant area is filling up with shrubs, trees, roses, and herbs, along with vegetable, cottage garden 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.

*Come and look at the beautiful plants, planted containers and other gift ideas which we have available for Easter. And 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 both Gotherington Nurseries and Toddington Garden Centre and spent at either place.

Please visit us at www.gotheringtonnurseries.co.uk or on Facebook for regular updates and many thanks for your continuing custom - we look forward to seeing you during the season.

Happy gardening!

Mark and Liz, Gotherington Nurseries

Gotherington Village Hall

Contacts: Peter Price-Thomas, Chair, 675380; Bev Osborne, Booking Secretary, 675741

<http://www.gotheringtonvillagehall.btck.co.uk>

The Village Hall has, as ever, been a hive of activity during the winter months, providing a hub for the clubs and societies as well as a location for numerous Christmas parties, quizzes and concerts to take place in.

The Hall also continued to play host to the monthly coffee mornings with fantastic home-baked cakes being served alongside delicious bacon rolls, tea and coffee (ongoing, on the 1st Saturday morning of every month).

As mentioned previously, we are continuing to explore the possibility of becoming a Charitable Incorporated Organization (CIO). This would carry out exactly the same role as the Committee currently does, but in a manner that limits liability and has a number of other benefits. We have been advised that there are no restrictions to us doing this.

The Village Hall Annual General Meeting will be on Wednesday 9th May at 7:00 pm. If you use the Village Hall or have ideas for things that we could do to improve its use, then please do come along.

In addition, we are always looking for more people to become actively involved by serving on the Committee. The work is not unduly onerous so do please get in contact if you are interested.

If you would like to book the Hall for any event, please go to www.gotherington.org.uk and select the 'Bookings' tab. And as always, we hope to see you at the next coffee morning.

Peter Price-Thomas, Chairman

GOTHERINGTON TENNIS CLUB

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

The evenings are getting lighter, the sun is breaking through more often (I think), so surely it's time to dust down the racket, put new laces in those tennis shoes and get down to Gotherington Tennis Club.

These are exciting times for the club with many new initiatives planned. This year we are putting emphasis on the children of the village with the start of Junior Tennis sessions on a Sunday morning. There are 2 age brackets with times as follows:

Ages 5-8 9:00 – 9:45 Ages 9-12 10:00- 11:00

These sessions, run by club coach Liam Gough, have proved extremely popular with the earlier session now fully booked. There is still availability for the later session so please contact me if you are interested.

A huge tidy-up operation has recently been carried out by the members. A big thank you to all who attended to ensure the courts remain in the best possible state. The courts and the new JWP are a magnificent asset for the village and we continue 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 are £60 for adults, £10 for juniors and reduced fees for veterans. Included in the subscription is access to the "club coaching scheme", which runs throughout the season. I know of no other club in Gloucestershire that offers professional coaching as part of its subscription, highlighting the excellent value for money the club offers.

Summer play commences on Sunday 1st April as follows:

<i>Monday Evening</i>	<i>from 18:30</i>
<i>Weds Evening</i>	<i>from 18:30</i>
<i>Fri afternoon</i>	<i>from 13:00 – 15:30</i>
<i>Sunday Morning</i>	<i>from 11:00 – 12:30</i>

Ian Donnelly

GOTHERINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

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

2018 started on a very positive note for the school with the publication of the School Performance Tables. The tables reflect the fact that the school is in the top 20 academies in the country.

Our progress scores in both Reading and Mathematics place us in the top 10% of schools nationally and our writing results show a significant improvement from the previous year.

It is gratifying to note that the proportion of pupils reaching a high score or greater depth in writing is also significantly above the national figure. This shows how well we are challenging the most able pupils in school. Achievements such as these do not come easily and reflect the efforts of pupils, staff and parents.

The school community was also delighted to be recognised for the work that we have done in two key areas:

- firstly, the school was nominated for the 'Educational Establishment of the Year' by UK Heartsafe. This highlighted the efforts that we have made in promoting the importance of educating people about heart safety;*
- secondly, in February, the school was awarded the 'Mental Health Champions' award. As a school, we are becoming more aware of and open about mental health issues and this award reflects the high quality provision that we make to support the mental health and well-being of our school community.*

Ben Jordan, Headteacher Gotherington Primary School

JUNIOR FOOTBALL

Contact: Rob Sharp on 01242 678057 or rob_sharp100@hotmail.com

The 2017/18 season is well underway and we have around 170 players representing the Club from u6 to u18. We continue to benefit from the support of Mr Jordan at the Junior School and the Parish Council regarding the field and other facilities.

The Club has maintained FA Charter Club status and continually strives to improve the coaching levels that we provide to the players. We have appointed Glen Murphy as Schools Liaison Officer while all Coaches and Assistants are CRC checked and have to complete Child Safeguarding courses alongside their First Aid and Coaching qualifications.

Our u16 side are 2 wins away from securing the Division One title, which would mean back-to-back League wins. This would be a remarkable achievement for our Village side (run by Rich Major and with excellent admin support from Nikki New) as the League is a strong one with excellent sides from Gloucester currently trailing us.

Ian Quartermaine will be our new Treasurer for the 2018/19 season. He will benefit from a handover period while the outgoing Treasurer, Rich Allenby, brings him up to speed.

We will also be replacing the Club Secretary and Chairman as the club looks to build on the solid base now in place. Many thanks to Rich Allenby who has served the Club as Manager and Treasurer for many years.

We will hold an end of season "funday" and will start planning for next season as we look to ensure the Club is well placed to continue providing a sporting outlet for a large number of children.

Rob Sharp, Chairman and Secretary GJFC

GOTHERINGTON PETANQUE CLUB

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

Happy Spring, everyone! (Well, why not - it seems as appropriate as Happy Christmas, and Happy Birthday.)

We have not been able to play quite so much Petanque this winter – the weather has really been against us. It is not pleasant playing in pouring rain and some have found the extreme cold a bit daunting this year. However, our season never stops so we all look forward to bright skies and warmer weather to come. As usual, we have months of events or competitions planned.

If you have not tried Petanque, or don't even know what it is, contact one of us and find out or just come along to one of the sessions mentioned on the back of Topics. This is a game to suit all ages, from older teens to geriatrics, male or female, so come as a family if you like.

We have spare boules (balls) and will be very happy to share our enthusiasm for the game. The rules are easy and remember, we all had to start somewhere. We were pretty useless at first but it is amazing how quickly you get the hang of it. It matters not a jot if you are no good to start with. If you can hold a steel ball in one hand and throw in front of you – you are about 60% of the way there!

And don't worry, you certainly do not have to commit to every session or pre-book, so come and watch, talk to us, or join in. We would love to see you.

Give it a try! – times and contact numbers are on the back of Topics.

SEE YOU ON THE PISTE!

Christine Godsell Secretary

GOTHERINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Contact: Howard Samuels (672492) or clerk@gotherinton.org.uk

As many of you will already be aware, David Hearn resigned from the Parish Council last December and also his position as Council Chair. On behalf of the Parish Council I would to thank him for his contribution over the past ten years in the many and diverse areas of Parish Council involvement.

I'm now pleased to welcome Ian O'Gorman to the Parish Council which brings the number of Councillors to seven. However, our full complement is nine so we still need two more Councillors. Please contact me or the Parish Clerk if you would be interested in becoming a Parish Councillor.

Most of the past few months have been taken up with the matter of the Church Centre Project. Tenders were received and reviewed by the Project Management team (KPW) and Parish Councillors and in January we held an EGM (Extraordinary General Meeting) to provide an update on the Project. This was attended by 86 residents and, following a short presentation by Councillors, the meeting was opened to allow residents to ask questions about all aspects of the Church Centre Project.

Subsequently, six residents called for a Parish Meeting to ask the Parish Council to arrange a Referendum on the question of purchasing the Church Centre. This was held on the 7th February with 108 residents attending and an overwhelming majority being in favour of having a Referendum.

The Referendum will be organised and controlled by Tewkesbury Borough Council and will be held on Thursday 1st March in the Village Hall.

The question on the ballot paper will be "Should Gotherington Parish Council proceed with the purchase and renovation of the Church Centre?"

Finally, it has been an "interesting" couple of months since I became the new Chair of the Parish Council and I hope fervently that, once the Referendum has been held, our community will quickly recapture the spirit of fun and caring that the village is known for.

Howard Samuels, Chair of the Parish Council

GOTHERINGTON STATION WARTIME IN THE COTSWOLDS EVENT

Contact: More information at www.gwsr.com

Once again, as part of the Gloucestershire Warwickshire Steam Railway's

'Wartime In The Cotswolds Event',

The privately owned and restored Gotherington Railway Station will be open to the public on

Saturday April 28th and Sunday April 29th 2018

There will be hot meals / drinks served in the NAAFI, free pump trolley rides, many exhibition tents of WW2 memorabilia, live music and fun for all the family.

Please note, it will not be possible to access this event by foot from the road. Access will only be by trains running from Toddington, Winchcombe, and Cheltenham Racecourse stations.

Bryan & Savita. Owners of Gotherington Station.

GOTHERINGTON SINGERS SPRING CONCERT 2018

www.gotheringtonsingers.co.uk

Saturday 28th April 2018, 7.30 pm

Balcarras School, Charlton Kings, Cheltenham

With guests the Beauregard Youth Choir

Tickets £8 from 01242 620775.

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

Contact: Ellen Cooke ellen@thecookes.me.uk

During Christian Aid Week our three villages always provide a good response to the annual house to house collection, typically raising over £1000 through cash and Gift Aid.

This well-managed charity then works with local organisations to provide support wherever there is need.

I would be grateful for a volunteer to take over the management of the appeal, which this year runs from 13-19 May.

Most of the area is covered by a faithful team of deliverers with many years' experience of their patch. I look forward to hearing from you.

Ellen Cooke

WOOLSTONE CHURCH FLOWER FESTIVAL – 2018

Contact: Sarah Whitehead (01242 674489)

There will be a Flower Festival held in Woolstone Church on

*Friday 15 June from 2 to 4.30pm,
Saturday 16 June from 10 to 4.30pm,
and Sunday 17 June from 10 to 4.30pm.*

The theme of the Festival will be jewels.

Refreshments will be available in the village and there will be disabled parking close to the Church.

We do hope that you will be able to support this event.

PARENT AND TODDLER GROUP

Contact: rachel@avasoft.co.uk (07769 854004)

gotheringtontoddlers@hotmail.co.uk

In 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. This in part is down to the efforts of Kate Carver, Vice Chair, who has been busy promoting the group on social media.

We had lots of fun at the Christmas party this year, children and grown-ups alike. The entertainment provided by Kim from Jo-Jingles went down a treat as did Father Christmas taking the time to meet each little one individually. Thanks to Peter Price-Thomas for running the raffle and raising so much money for the Toddler group.

The Easter party is looming and we are again looking forward to welcoming Kim from Jo Jingles to provide the entertainment. And, of course, there is the greatly anticipated visit from the Easter Bunny.

Many of our parents attended and helped out at the Christmas Quiz, which raised money for the Toddler group and a local charity.

We continue to meet in the Village Hall on Tuesdays and Fridays, 9.30 - 11.30am. 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 all for their continued support.

I feel blessed to be working with and having the support of such a wonderful and dedicated Committee. However, our little ones don't stay little forever, so in the next few months a number of Committee posts will become vacant. We will be needing new people to take on these roles, so if anybody is interested please let me know.

Rachel Evans

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

www.gotherington.org.uk/neighbourhood-watch

Contact: John Hicks (Long Furlong Park) 676848, Mary Manders-Trett (Malleston Road) 674592
Howard Samuels (Shutter Lane) 672492

Report a Crime - Contact the Police:

Reporting an emergency 999 or 112 Reporting non-emergencies 101

Bogus Callers 0300 123 2040 Crime Stoppers 0800 555 111

Fight Fraud

People can be victims of frauds like confidence, games, and insurance, home repair, telephone, or internet scams. The following tips may help:

- **Don't** be afraid to hang up on telephone salespeople. You aren't being impolite. You are taking care of yourself! Remember, you can say no to any offer.
- **Don't** give any personal information, including your credit card number or bank account, over the phone unless you were the one who made the call.
- **Don't** take money from your bank account if a stranger tells you to.
- **Don't** be fooled by deals that seem too good to be true. They are often rip-offs. Beware of deals that ask for a lot of money up front and promise you more money later.
- **Do** be on guard about hiring people who come door-to-door looking for home repair work. They may not be trained to do the work, and they may overcharge you. You should try to check their references. Always spell out the details of the work you want done in writing. Never pay for the whole job in advance.

Avoid Identity Theft

How can someone steal your identity? Using your name, Social Security number, or credit card without your agreement is called identity theft and it's a serious crime. Be sure to protect yourself:

Howard Samuels

POPPY APPEAL

Contacts: Brian & Yvonne Cosgrove 676216

2017 Poppy Appeal Final Result

The Poppy Appeal raises funds to help servicemen who return badly injured and their families. It also assists the families of those who sadly never return. Support for this was outstanding last November. The total raised was £1934.94.

This is a great result and speaks volumes for the generosity of the villagers and also the hard work of the volunteer collectors who give so freely of their time. It also benefits from those businesses and institutions that had collection boxes on their premises. Many thanks to everyone.

2018 Remembrance Service

This year marks the 100th Anniversary of the "War to end All Wars".

A resident has approached us to say that he would like to remember a lost relative at the service in November. If there are any other residents who would like to do the same, please let us know. We are able to order wreaths (minimum donation £20) or Wooden Poppy Crosses.

Brian & Yvonne Cosgrove

GOTHERINGTON SINGERS

Contact: Sue Adamson on 01242 676087

www.gotheringtonsingers.co.uk

We are a ladies' choir formed 49 years ago in Gotherington. If you are interested in joining us come along to one of our rehearsals and see how you like us! We are a very friendly group performing a wide and varied range of music, and we will give you a warm welcome! Previous experience is not necessary. We meet every Monday evening, 7.45 to 9.30, alternating between Gotherington Village Hall and Bethesda Methodist Church, Cheltenham. For more information call 01242 523168, or visit our website.

Sue Adamson

LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Contacts: Caroline Meller (677489) / Jill Collins (672848)
www.gotherington.org.uk/history-society/

2018 represents the centennial commemoration of the lives of almost half the young men from our villages who died during the First World War. The intensity of the war came to a head in 1918 and the number of casualties reflects this. Throughout this year, the biographies of those who died will be published to coincide with the centenaries of their deaths.

Frank Steel of Oxenton (killed in action, 11th April 1918)

Although Frank was born at Oxenton, by 1911 his family were farming at Pamington. When war was declared in August 1914 Frank, now aged 19, was one of the first to enlist. The Gloucestershire Echo detailed the send-off the troops received when they left Cheltenham on 25th August, noting that those who came from farming backgrounds were noticeably sunburnt, having helped with the harvest right up to the day before they were due to leave.

Alongside Frank that day was another local lad, John Wyman of Cleeve Road, aged 22. A total of 87 men marched behind a bugle band to the Midland Station. Family and friends gathered there to cheer them on their way as they caught a train to Bristol where their training as part of Lord Kitchener's Army was to begin.

Frank served in the First Battalion of the Gloucestershire Regiment and was eventually promoted to the rank of sergeant. By the beginning of 1918, recognising the impact the German's "Spring Offensive" was having, Sir Douglas Haig gave the order on 11th April that 'every position must be held to the last man'.

It was on this day that Frank, having served his country for 3 ½ years, was killed helping to defend one of two crossing points on the Bassee Canal. He was buried nearby at Browns Road Cemetery, Festubert. Frank is remembered on the war memorials of Ashchurch and Cheltenham.

William Church of Prescott (killed in action, 22nd April 1918)

William was one of our youngest fatalities.

A recruiting meeting was held in the village in Spring 1915, at which a Sgt. Hemsley spoke to a large audience about the war. Perhaps William attended this meeting, perhaps he was inspired by his older brother Charles who had already enlisted, or perhaps he was persuaded by the constant feed of patriotism in the press.

Whatever his motives, on 6th August 1915, four days after his 16th birthday, he walked into the recruiting office at Cheltenham where the Officers present recorded his 'apparent' age as 19.

Once enlisted, William was quickly despatched for training in Essex. On discovering what had happened, his father desperately tried to persuade the authorities to send his son home. However, every time he found out where William was, his son had already been moved to another camp. Indeed, he was moved on twice in 1915, then four times in 1916.

Although William served in the Gloucestershire Regiment for most of the war, on 4th April 1918 he was transferred to the 15th Battalion of the Sherwood Foresters. Eighteen days later, on 22nd April, William was killed in action during the German "Spring Offensive" at the Somme.

He had served his country for two years and 260 days and was still only 18 when he died. William has no known grave but is remembered on the Pozieres Memorial to the Missing on the Somme, on two memorials in Cheltenham, as well as those at Bishop's Cleeve and Gotherington.

"We will remember them"

Caroline Meller Chair, Gotherington and Area Local History Society