

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)	
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		Chairman: Jenny Lockwood (676597) / Secretary: Linda Howard	
Oxenton Village Bookings		Valerie Martin (673233)	
Parish Council	2nd Tue 7.30pm	Howard Samuels (672492) hsamuels@btinternet.com	
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 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) - sally.newbury@gmail.com Rosemary Bishton (677290) - rosemary.bishton1@btinternet.com Myra Card - myracard123@tiscali.co.uk	



Gotherington Topics Summer 2018

An air of calm and cooperation seems to have replaced the tensions and turmoil of the past year and a half. The Neighbourhood Development Plan has been a key factor in defeating the efforts to build houses on The Meadow (Cook's Field) - and contentious Parish Council-led efforts to buy the Free Church building are now a receding memory with the Old Chapel Community Project having taken up the challenge of saving the building and making it available as an additional resource for the benefit of all.

Events now making our news are the recent cricket match against the Royal Household CC (which Gotherinton won), the dazzling range of activities undertaken by our Primary School children, the sheer breadth of the W.I. talks and courses, and the continuing success of the Junior Football Club.

As you'd expect, all the details are inside Topics together with the latest in the Centennial Commemoration series of First World War obituaries compiled by Caroline Mellor from the Local History Society.

So, put the cares of the recent past behind you, enjoy reading this latest edition of Topics and have a great summer!

The Editor

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TOPICS OF INTEREST

Topics is delivered to houses in our three villages in Spring, Summer, and Winter.

The next edition is due out during the week starting Monday 22nd October 2018.

The current edition is on the village website at www.gotherington.org.uk.

Contributions for Topics can be emailed to gotherington.topics@gmail.com.

YOUR PARISH COUNCILLORS

Ellie Arnett		07739 044356
Rodney Churchill		662837
Allen Keyte	(Vice Chair)	674446
Lewis Harmer		671050
Beverly Osborne		675741
Caroline Ryman		673707
Howard Samuels	(Chair)	672492
David Ward		675080

As at 15/6/2018

CONTACTS – GENERAL

Gotherington P.O. & Stores	(672249)
Gotherington Nurseries	(676722)
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)
County Councillor Rob Bird	(07711 269 096)
Garden House Nursery School	(07913256364/01386 81886)
Yoga [Tuesdays] Sarah Marti	(269765) sarahmartinyoga@hotmail.co.uk

WINE CLUB

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

Here we are in June - time for a glass of Rosé or a glass of Blush and to put those mighty reds back in the cellar until the Autumn.

We are currently enjoying a growing interest in the Wine Club and have had several new members join in the past couple of months, including some who are not wine drinkers but enjoy the atmosphere and lively talks.

By the time you read this we will have had a "What's My Wine?" evening in June which is a play on the popular "What's My Line?" panel game hosted by Eamonn Andrews and included Isobel Barnett which was very popular - as of course was our wine evening.

In July we have "Supper and Sipping" at the Pavilion - this will be our second year at the Pavillion following a lovely evening there last year.

In August we venture further a-field and this year are going to the American Museum at Cleverton Manor near Bath, followed by a river cruise on the River Avon.

In September we'll be back in the Village Hall for "Fish, Chips and Fizz, an in-house event which has proved to be very popular whenever we stage it.

The big event will be "Winetaster of the Year", held in October. It carries a lot of prestige and is felt by many to be the one and only contest to win.

Please refer to the Gotherington Wine Club Website or Facebook page which has details of all forthcoming events and is a useful source of information.

We always welcome new members to the Wine Club and we meet every 3rd Tuesday (except July & August) 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 time to relax and chat.

Howard Samuels, Chairperson

GOTHERINGTON RAINBOWS

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

This term we have enjoyed working on a Unicorn Challenge with the girls making a variety of unicorn themed crafts and learning some new games.

We have also been earning the Get Healthy Roundabout badge by thinking about healthy eating and keeping active.

We have welcomed Claire Holder and Emily Parsons as Leaders who will be ready to assist Helen when I retire from Rainbows at the end of term.

Rainbows are aged 5-7 and meet on Mondays from 3.30-4.45 in the village hall. If you would like to put your daughter on the waiting list please contact me.

GOTHERINGTON BROWNIES

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

We have had a really busy term earning lots of lovely badges including:

FUTURE GIRL – where we thought about things that are important to us as we grow up. This tied in well with the Centenary of Votes for Women challenge so the girls made some great banners like Votes for Women in the Suffragette colours of Green, White and Violet (Give Women Votes);

'NO TO BULLYING' and;

'CARE FOR PETS'.

We also celebrated the Royal Wedding and had our own sports day. As I write, we are getting ready to go on our Pack Holiday with a Harry Potter theme. We are taking 24 of the girls away for lots of wizarding fun!

There is currently a waiting list for Brownies, but please get in touch if you would like more information. We meet on Mondays from 6-7.30pm in the village hall.

Kirsten

NEWS FROM THE VICAR!

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

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

As I look out of my study window it is raining and we are entering holiday season - I hope you have planned your summer break and are looking forward to some sun.

The whole idea of taking time out - having a break for a while from our normal daily routine - is something that is deeply rooted in Scripture. In fact it is the fourth commandment and also it is the longest one, which tells of how important it is to God that we do take the opportunity to recharge our batteries.

Nowadays, our modern lives are run at such a pace that it is no surprise that stress and mental well-being are such big issues in our society. We are expected to be on the go twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week - there is so much to be done and so little time to do it in.

But wait a minute. If we take notice of the fourth commandment, we will find a way of reducing that danger of running ourselves down, which could result in us not fulfilling our full potential and even worse might force us to take time out that we didn't intend, and that would not be good for any of us.

Holidays are an opportunity to rest and relax and to enjoy a slower pace of life. And if you can leave your mobile phone at home, or at least turn it off and only use it in emergencies, then all the better!

If we want to enjoy life, we need a work/life balance that is right for us. In John's Gospel, Jesus tells us he came so that we may have life, and have it to the full.

Wishing you all happy holidays.

Kind regards

Richard Reakes, The Vicarage, Malleson Road, Gotherington

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

This Spring, members attending courses at Denman (our W.I. College in Oxfordshire) on "patisserie", "stump embroidery", "London Markets", and dancing and singing on the "Show Stopper" course. We also enjoyed a day in Oxenton creating beautiful needle-felt hares from wire using special serrated needles and natural sheep's wool. Others knitted hearts, flowers, a cat and a gnome for the wonderful knitted garden on display at the Malvern Spring Flower Show in aid of the Sue Ryder Hospice.

Adam Henson was an excellent guest speaker at the G.F.W.I. Annual Meeting in the Town Hall in March. The N.F.W.I. Annual Meeting will be held in Cardiff in June where a resolution on Mental Health will be put forward. The W.I. wishes to recognise the importance of parity between mental & physical health and to lobby for better support for mental illness.

In March, Tony Osman demonstrated glass blowing and made a beautiful little scent bottle which he donated to our raffle and in April we celebrated our 65th birthday with a lovely party. May saw us exercising (seated!) to music as Angela Swales led us in a 'Move it or Lose it' session. We took home copies of the "Cuppa Routine" - four simple exercises which can be done while waiting for the kettle to boil! We also enjoyed a walk in the woods at Ashton under Hill to see the bluebells, followed by a pub lunch.

In addition to all this, the skittles season is underway, our monthly pub lunches and weekly art groups are well attended and we are planning a day of cookery, gardening and craft activities later in the summer.

Future meetings will include speakers on: Coping with Stress; Birds of the Forest of Dean; Unusual Accommodation; and the Cotswold Perfumery.

We meet in Gotherington Village Hall at 7.30 p.m. on the 4th Wednesday of the month. New members and visitors are always very welcome!

Do go to our website to find out more - www.gwowi.org.uk.

Jill Parsons

GOTHERINGTON VILLAGE HALL

Contacts: Bev Osborne, Booking Secretary, 675741
<http://www.gotheringtonvillagehall.btck.co.uk>

Gotherington Village Hall continues to help the village community to thrive. People using the Hall range in age from a couple of months old to those in their nineties, with virtually every age group in between catered for. The Hall provides a venue for so many of the clubs and societies that make Gotherington such a vibrant place to live. It also provides a great location for birthday parties, wedding anniversaries and of course, the monthly coffee mornings.

This is my last Topics as Chair of the Village Hall Committee and I would like to put on record my thanks to all of the Committee for the time and hard work that they have put into keeping the hall running. Since taking over as Chair we have a new heating system, a new maintenance co-ordinator, an agreement to become a Charitable Incorporated Organization (CIO) and, in some ways most importantly, a number of new Trustees.

We are, however, in need of additional new people to get involved as we prepare for life as a CIO. This might take the form of being an active representative of one of the many regular user groups, or it may be by becoming a Trustee independent of a group. Either way, for the Committee to be effective in the years to come we do need a certain amount of renewal. The roles are not particularly onerous and the Committee would be happy to discuss what they entail in detail, should you be interested.

The hall enables Gotherington to flourish. Help us to continue to ensure that it does.

Peter Price-Thomas, Chairman

CRICKET CLUB

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

The 2018 season is well underway and we have already enjoyed some wonderful games including a win against the Royal Household Cricket Club who visited us in June. It was a lovely event with our guests enjoying an excellent tea in the village marquee. Thank you to Rob Swinson for his help with the Marquee and to Bev & Rich Osborne for the post-match BBQ. We have received some very good feedback from the RHCC and their spectators and have been invited back to Windsor Castle again next season.

Under the guidance of Brian and Yvonne Cosgrove, and with skills development from Gecko (the company who we use to provide specialist coaching on a Saturday morning), we have children from age 5 upwards, an u11 side and an u15 side. The u15s are finding it quite a challenge this year as they are actually nearly all u14 or younger, but they will benefit from the experience come next year.

We have invested significantly in "junior development" with the purchase of a bowling machine which was funded in large part by our 100 club together with some much appreciated "one-off" donations.

Brian Cosgrove continues to do the work of several men, working on the ground and running net sessions and matches - we are very grateful for his huge contribution to the club.

We have a village cricket tour to Paris on 7/8/9 September to play the Standard Athletic Club of Paris. Edward Gillespie (our fixtures secretary) has compiled an excellent fixture list and we look forward to games against the likes of Dumbleton, Apperley, and the Commoners, as well as more games against the likes of The Royal Household Cricket Club and The Standard Athletic Club of Paris.

Junior Training will continue until the last Saturday in August.

Rob Sharp, Chairman GCC

GOTHERINGTON GARDENING CLUB

Rob Cronin – Club Chairman
<http://gotherington.org.uk/gardening-club/>

This gardening year continues to surprise me. We have had a very long Winter with snow, storms, gales, minor floods, followed by Spring that passed me by and the hottest May since records began. What does that mean for the garden.... confusion! Late snowdrops, early daffs, tulips that came and went in what seemed like a day, and the apple trees have loved every second of it.

I sit writing this with a bird's eye view of two 6-year-old cordon trained apples that were just twigs when they were given to us as a wedding present. They are now laden with apples and this is not just down to my good luck. At our Club annual garden party in June, I was pleased to see a spectacular display of fruit-laden 'step over' apples in our host garden. Training fruit is actually very simple - it looks attractive and you can cram many varieties into a small space. If you are interested in training fruit trees in your garden, pop along to one of our meetings - our members will be more than happy to share their knowledge of this art form.

The Club meets on the 3rd Wednesday of each month (except August) in the Village Hall with the door opening at 7.30pm. We enjoy a wide range of speakers and demonstrations, not always on specialist gardening subjects. Our next round of talks can be found below and we would love it if you could join us at one or all of the meetings.

- July 18th **Wildlife on Cleeve Hill** – Arthur Ball – Always entertaining
- Sept 19th **Tulipmania** – Alan Wells – Bee keeper and gardener
- Oct 17th **Members Evening.** Bring something you have grown or made from your garden - cakes, bakes, arrangements, unusual vegetables... you decide!

Rob Cronin, Gotherington Gardening Club Chairman

GOTHERINGTON TENNIS CLUB

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

It's been a great start to the summer season with even the weather playing ball. The Club has continued to attract new members over the early summer months and as a result, social tennis has been extremely well attended which is very encouraging.

However the biggest success of the summer so far has been the junior coaching taking place on Sunday mornings. It's fantastic to see the courts full of happy smiling young faces enjoying our great game. I think it's fair to say every child has improved tremendously, with some of the younger ones already moving up to the more advanced group. A big thanks to Club Coach Liam Gough for the enthusiasm and sense of fun he brings to these sessions while ably supported by his assistant Fin Donnelly. Also, can I send out a big thank you to the parents - your support and positive feedback is very much appreciated.

League tennis is now well underway with mixed fortunes across the teams. The Men's A are locked in a close promotion tussle, while the Men's B are having their best season so far, sitting comfortably in mid-table. The Lady's A have proved a match for anybody when they get their strongest side out, as demonstrated by a 4-0 thumping of Cheltenham College, but the self-proclaimed 'most sociable team in the club' (the Lady's B) continue to struggle, with results not reflecting the standard of play.

Fingers crossed that the good weather will continue and, with Wimbledon just around the corner, why not dust off that old racket, come down to Gotherington Tennis Club on a Monday or Wednesday evening and see what we're all about.

For further information please contact Ian Donnelly (674404) or see our Web and Facebook pages at the top of this item.

Ian Donnelly

VILLAGE HALL COFFEE MORNINGS

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

Where do the days go? Here we are, half way through another year, and it only seems 5 minutes since I last wrote this. Having said that, coffee mornings come round quickly as well, and yet you still keep coming!! Thank you. I know they have become a great meeting point and, judging by the level of happy noise, you all have plenty to catch up on when you come.

However, some ladies recently told me they no longer come to the coffee morning because nobody spoke to them! So, with extra houses and newcomers in the village, we "regulars" must be sure to make everyone feel welcome, have a chat and show them what a lovely group of people we are.

Hoping to see you on the first Saturday of each month and, if you feel a bit lonely, tap me on the shoulder and I promise you that we will have a chat!

Christine Godsell, Gotherington Village Hall Coffee Mornings

GOTHERINGTON PETANQUE CLUB

Contact: David Ward on 675080 or Christine Godsell on 672821

www.gotherington.org.uk/petanque

What a cold winter we had – it put a lot of us off playing but there are always the hearty ones who are out in all weather, wrapped up in hats and scarves and gloves, battling the elements on the piste, thinking of hot chocolate, soup, fires,Oh, OK – just one more game first!

Now, although it is raining as I write, we have had sunshine, shorts and sunglasses and we are looking forward to a season of social events and competition, with the best view ever from our piste. No matter what the score is, we are all winners! Come and try it. We can guarantee you a happy time.

SEE YOU ON THE PISTE!

Christine Godsell Secretary

NEWS FROM THE NURSERIES

Contact: Phone 01242 676722

www.gotheringtonnurseries.co.uk www.facebook.com/gotheringtonnurseries

With the mixture of lovely sunshine and rain, everything is looking very lush. The glasshouses and the outside plant area are looking beautiful with an array of different colours and shapes.

It's been an amazing season after the challenges earlier in the year. The Nursery has been a hive of activity: seed sowing; potting on; re-stocking; supplying our Garden Centre at Toddington; and hours of watering. The glasshouses are full of home-grown bedding plants. We have been busy making up customer orders for planted hanging baskets and containers and ensuring there are plenty available for sale in the Nursery.

In the plant area, the wide variety of cottage garden plants provide instant colour, offer good value for money and are a great way to fill borders. We have a good choice of trees, shrubs, roses, climbers, rockery plants & herbs.

The shop is well stocked with a range of gardening goods including tools, Hozelock products, lawn, plant & garden care products, solar lights and bird care products.

But the production of the Autumn bedding plants has started already! These should be ready towards the end of August or early September. Check our Facebook page for regular updates. Bulbs for autumn planting should be making their way to our shelves during August.

And our new website can be found at www.gotheringtonnurseries.co.uk.

We are open Monday to Saturday 9am until 5pm and 10am until 4pm on Sundays.

We wish you well for the coming season and thank you for your continued support. Happy gardening!

Mark and Liz, Gotherington Nurseries

GOTHERINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

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

It has been a very busy summer term so far, with children involved in a dazzling array of activities. These have included:

- *skateboard workshops*
- *'Roman Day'*
- *visits to 'All Things Wild'*
- *mountain bike competitions*
- *a "rounders" festival*
- *a trumpet concert*
- *and the Cheltenham Science Festival!*

Our Year 6 children have also experienced life away from home during an action packed residential week at Manor Adventure. Children (and staff) worked together as teams, learning new skills and conquering their fears, throwing themselves down zip wires, abseiling, kayaking, hill walking, fencing, orienteering and exploring an underground maze.

As the year draws to a close, we will be saying a fond farewell to two fantastic members of staff:

- *After eight years at Gotherington, Mrs Johnson, who has brought so much to the school including the promotion of music, will be starting a new chapter of her career as a Special Needs Co-ordinator.*
- *Miss Turley, our current year 3 teacher, will be embarking on a new phase in her teaching career at a school in Bangkok, Thailand.*

We wish them both all the very best.

Ben Jordan, Headteacher Gotherington Primary School

Averil Woolston, Acting Headteacher Gotherington Primary School

GOTHERINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Contact: Howard Samuels 672492 / gotheringtonpc@gmail.com
www.gotheringtonparishcouncil.org.uk

I was pleased to welcome back Allen Keyte and David Ward to the Parish Council which, at the time, gave us the full complement of nine Councillors. However, Ian O'Gorman has since resigned for personal reasons and we would like to thank him for his contribution and wish him well for the future. This means we still have a vacancy on the Parish Council.

The Spring edition of Topics mentioned that there was going to be a poll vote on the 1st March 2018 on the question of "Should Gotherington Parish Council proceed with the purchase and renovation of the Church Centre?" The poll vote was subsequently held, the first in the Tewkesbury district since 2004 apparently. There was a 47% turnout, again very high according to Tewkesbury Borough Council, with a 45 vote majority in favour of those who voted against the purchase. (397 votes; 176 – yes, 221 – no). Although this vote was not legally binding, the Parish Council held an EGM meeting the following evening and voted to no longer proceed with the project. However, the story continues – see Page 15 for more details!

We are entitled to S106 monies as a result of the developments agreed for our village. It is important that these monies are spent in accordance with the wishes of the village and we will be asking for your comments and suggestions over the coming weeks.

At the Annual 2018 Parish Meeting held at the Village Hall on 17th May we had a presentation by Chris Riley, (the G.C.C. Local Highway Manager) who gave us an update on Gotherington Cross Junction. The total budget available, including safety funding and some S106 money, was around £40,000. However, the cost of 4-way traffic signals would be in region of £300,000 while a roundabout would cost even more and there is a shortage of land for a roundabout. Still a lot yet to discuss I feel!!

Howard Samuels, Chair of the Parish Council

PARENT AND TODDLER GROUP

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

gotheringtontoddlers@hotmail.co.uk

Since the last edition, the Toddler Group has again been busy. The group continues to thrive and we see lots of new faces and regulars. Everybody had a lovely time at the Easter Party where there was a "name the bunny" competition, basket making craft and party food and the children were entertained by Jo Jingles. The Easter Bunny also gave up his time to meet the children who had lots of fun finding chocolate eggs in the playground.

In the coming weeks we will be holding our annual summer outings. This year we are holding two Teddy Bears' Picnics at Broadway playground which is proving popular. In previous years, the Friday session has continued to run during the school Summer holidays. However, this year we have decided to close for the whole of August since so many people are away or out enjoying the good weather.

In July, a number of people will be stepping down from the Committee. I will be changing role to become Treasurer and am handing over the reins this month to Emily Charnock who I know will do a great job since she's previously been Chair for two years. I have thoroughly enjoyed contributing to the running of the group this past year and meeting all the lovely children, parents and carers that attend. We are very lucky to have some new and enthusiastic volunteers joining the Committee and I'm confident this will see the group continue to go from strength to strength.

Thanks to everyone who has supported the group this past year. Particular thanks to Kate Carver, Margaret Everitt, Helen Harrison, Mandy Davidson-Smith and Hannah Fraser who have been on the committee.

We continue to meet in the Village Hall on Tuesdays and Fridays, 9.30 - 11.30 for free play, craft, stories, singing and lots of chatting. We can be contacted via our Facebook page or at gotheringtontoddlers@hotmail.co.uk.

Rachel Evans

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

Contact: Kirsten Stillman // kirstencheadle@hotmail.com

Christian Aid Week took place in May and I'm delighted to announce that the people of Gotherington, Woolstone and Oxenton donated a total of £1,107.29.

Many thanks to all those that took part in the collection and to those that donated.

And finally, we could do with a couple more Collectors next year so please contact me if you are interested in volunteering.

Kirsten

GOTHERINGTON SINGERS

www.gotheringtonsingers.co.uk

Gotherington Singers are always happy to welcome new members, so if you love singing why not give us a try? Come along to one of our practice sessions and see what goes on, join in the singing and see if you like us!

We are a very friendly bunch and you will be made very welcome. Previous experience is not necessary, just a love of singing. We sing a wide variety of music and you can visit our website to hear some of our recordings.

We meet at Gotherington Village Hall at 7.45pm on 1st, 3rd, and 5th Mondays of the month, and at Bethesda Church, Cheltenham on 2nd and 4th Mondays. For further information phone 01242 523168 or 07976624736, or use the contact form on our website.

The next concert will be our **Christmas Concert**, which takes place this year on Wednesday December 19th 7.30pm, St Nicolas' Church, Swindon Lane, Cheltenham GL50 4PA.

We start rehearsals for the concert in September. Tickets will be available nearer the time (Tel 01242 620775). Come and join us to hear some lovely Christmas music in this beautiful church.

TEENAGE CANCER TRUST

David and Jill Ward and family would like to invite you all to a

CREAM TEA and "OPEN GARDEN "

at Ambleside, Lawrence's Meadow

on Sunday 9th September, 2:30pm until 4:30pm.

Raffle and cake sale.

Entrance £5 to include cream tea.

All proceeds to Teenage Cancer Trust.

Everyone welcome

JOHN WOOLLEY PAVILION

I would like to remind everyone that we currently have three community buildings in the Village: the Village Hall; the Rex Rhodes Building (RRB); and the John Woolley Pavilion (JWP).

Each building offers something different, and for this item I would like to focus on the John Woolley Pavilion. It enjoys an ideal location, tucked away overlooking the tennis courts, and is well placed to enjoy all the facilities that Freeman Field has to offer.

The John Woolley Pavilion has a WC and is well equipped including a fridge - handy for keeping food fresh and wine chilled!

The hire charge is only £8.00 per hour for local residents, so it is a wonderful place to hold all types of functions. To hire the John Woolley Pavilion please see the on-line booking sheet on:

<http://gotherington.org.uk/tennis-bookings/>

Howard Samuels, Chair of the Parish Council

OLD CHAPEL COMMUNITY PROJECT

*Contact: Andy Stillman 673218 gotheringtonoldchapel@gmail.com
www.gotheringtonoldchapel.org.uk*

There has been a whirlwind of activity since the last edition of Topics was published. First, the village referendum result ended the Parish Council's plans to purchase and renovate the Old Chapel. This provided the opportunity for a quickly assembled group of interested villagers to start the Old Chapel Community Project, apply for it to be a charity, and make plans to raise the money required through voluntary contributions.

The Trust that owns the building had been very patient, but indicated that they would put the building up for auction if an offer wasn't received by early June. The Parochial Parish Council's previous offer of funding was transferred to the new project, but that still left a considerable sum to find. In the end this was achieved within ten weeks thanks to the generosity of the people of Gotherington, Woolstone, Oxenton and further afield.

Fund-raising was largely achieved by means of three open days, the last of which coincided with the Royal Wedding. This was the excuse for a village-wide celebration on a gloriously sunny day with activities that also included the Village Shop, Village Hall and last but not least the Shutters. The enthusiasm shown by everyone involved, and the friendly and cooperative atmosphere of all of the events, has demonstrated the goodwill there is towards the project.

We can now report that an offer to purchase the Old Chapel has been made and accepted. The vision for the project is for the building to be renovated with the help of grants, and integrated with the existing village amenities to create extra capacity and flexibility for the benefit of all.

Andy Stillman

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

Neighbourhood Watch is recognised nationally as one of the most effective voluntary organisations and a good example of police and communities working together to reduce crime and the fear of crime; building safer communities to improve the quality of life.

If you have witnessed a crime it is important that you report this. If the crime is in progress or if there is a suspect still on scene you must call 999.

What do I do now?

If the crime has already happened you can either:

- report this to the police by calling 101 or complete the 'report a crime' form. Give as much information as possible about the crime. You will be given an incident number to quote in the event of any follow-up correspondence regarding the case.
- or report it anonymously to Crimestoppers by calling 0800 555 111

What happens next?

- If you report the incident to the police:
- officers may make house-to-house enquiries in an attempt to trace witnesses or any further victims
- Victim Support offer support and practical information to witnesses of crime.

Howard Samuels

JUNIOR FOOTBALL

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

The 2017/18 season was another very good one for the Club. Around 170 players were involved in the Club from u6 to u18. We continue to appreciate 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 we provide to our players. We have appointed Glen Murphy as Schools Liaison Officer. All coaches and assistants are CRB checked and have to complete Child Safeguarding courses alongside their First Aid and coaching qualifications.

Our u16 side won the Division One title - a remarkable achievement following on from their u15 League victory. The side is managed by village resident Rich Major and well supported with administration from another village resident Nikki New.

We have a new Treasurer for the 2018/19 season (Ian Quartermaine) whilst Richard Allenby has agreed to stay on as Registrations Secretary. Bhavna Amlani is our Club Welfare Officer and Rob Sharp, whilst seeking a replacement, has agreed to stay in the roles of Chairman and Secretary until other volunteers can be found.

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

Rob Sharp, Chairman and Secretary GJFC

LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

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

Charles Cox of Gotherington Fields (killed in action, 14th Oct 1918)

Charles was the eighth child of Walter and Emily Cox. Originally from Bishop's Cleeve, by the time Charles was born in 1899 the family were living at Gotherington Fields where his father was employed by Charles Holder of the Tithe Farm. When Charles left school it is likely that he too worked as an agricultural labourer.

No military record survives to show when Charles joined up. However, what is known is that he first enlisted with the Gloucestershire Regiment before being transferred to the "Worcesters". In September 1918 Charles was sent to France as part of the Hundred Days Offensive which had started one month earlier. This offensive pushed the Germans back beyond the Hindenburg Line. Charles was involved in an assault on the village of Auby and was one of eleven men killed in action there. He was buried at the small British cemetery of Douai, south of Auby. In December 1918, his widowed mother, having been given little information about his death, placed a family notice in the Gloucestershire Echo asking if anyone could help the family come to terms with what had happened. Charles is remembered on the memorials at Cheltenham and Gotherington.

Henry T. Barnes of Gotherington (killed in action, 2nd Nov 1918)

The Barnes family came from Upton St. Leonards but subsequently moved first to Cheltenham and then Rendcomb, before settling in Longfurlong, Gotherington, around 1913.

The youngest son, Raymond, enlisted in September 1915 and six months later he was dead having been killed in action in France - he was just 19. His older brother, Henry, after several jobs, had worked for the GWR in Gloucester. He served in the Gloucestershire Regiment before being wounded in action alongside the River Ecaillon, near Boulogne. He died just days before the Armistice - he was 34. He was buried nearby and is remembered on the Memorials here and in Bishop's Cleeve.

LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

(continuation)

Harry Oakey of Gotherington (Prisoner of War, 3rd Nov 1918)

The day after Henry's death, another local soldier died; he was not killed in action in France but died in a POW camp in Germany.

The Oakeys were a well-established Gotherington family. In the 1860s, Edwin Oakey left the family home in Gretton Road to work on a farm in Oxenton. He married the farmer's daughter (Lucy Roberts), and they had eight children (Harry was "No. 6") before moving to Shutter Lane where Edwin gave up farm labouring in order to work on the roads for the Council. He also became a leading member and supporter of the Free Church.

Harry followed his father in working on road maintenance. In 1913 he married Susan Hunt in Cheltenham. They then moved to Bristol where they had a daughter, Lucy, in 1914. Harry was conscripted, probably in 1917, and posted to the Mechanical Transport section of the Army Service Corps.

In May 1918, he was taken prisoner in France and sent to the Friedrichsfeld POW camp, sixty miles north of Cologne - the same camp as his younger brother, Charles, had been sent to one month earlier. Charles eventually came home but Harry didn't. The camp was thought to have been one of the better ones: beds and bedding in timber barracks, a laundry and shower room, open space for football, and vegetables grown by the prisoners. Despite all this Harry succumbed to influenza in the camp - he was 32. He was initially buried at the camp but later his body was moved to a larger cemetery in Cologne. He is remembered here and in Bishop's Cleeve.

"We will remember them"

Caroline Meller, Chair of Gotherington and Area Local History Society