

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	Emily Parsons	
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)	
Gotherington Singers	1 st ,3 rd &5 th Mon 8pm	Viv Nicholson 0124 523168 or 07976624736	
Local History Society	4th Tue 8pm	Caroline Meller (677489) / Jill Collins (672848)	
Parent and Toddler Group	Tue, Fri 9.30am	Emily Charnock (07855 279778)	
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: Jemmy 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	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) - sally.newbury@gmail.com
		Secretary	Rosemary Bishton (677290) - rosemary.bishton1@btinternet.com
		Treasurer	Myra Card - myracard123@tiscali.co.uk



Gotherington Topics

Autumn 2018

This is the final edition of Topics for 2018 and what a curious year it has been. First of all, hasn't there been a lot of weather around? I know that there is weather every day of the year, but during the last 12 months we have had long spells of very low and then very high temperatures, we've had extended periods without significant rainfall followed by short spells of very heavy downpours and in between all this the days have see-sawed between chilly and warm on a seemingly daily basis.

Then there has been all the coming and going over the old chapel building with groups of villagers taking increasingly entrenched positions before calm and sanity eventually settled over our community once more.

And what about all the political shenanigans going on across the English Channel and the Trump(eting) noises from the other side of the Atlantic? Chaos reigns everywhere and we seem to be living in an increasingly unstable world.

So, will 2019 be more predictable than 2018, even a bit boring? Probably not. After all, the Romans were told to "beware the Ides of March" on the 15th. Heaven only knows what we should beware on 29th March next year!

The Editor

Proud sponsors of Gotherington Topics

Andrews

- Experienced and friendly staff
- Specialist mortgage advice
- Extensive advertising
- Superb display facilities
- No Sale, no fee

T: 01242 675491

E: bishopsleeve@andrewsonline.co.uk

GOTHERINGTON TOPICS AUTUMN 2018 INDEX

<i>Brownies And Rainbows</i>	<i>Page 3</i>
<i>Church Of England - News From The Vicar!</i>	<i>Page 4</i>
<i>Gardening Club</i>	<i>Page 5</i>
<i>Gotherington Nurseries</i>	<i>Page 6</i>
<i>Gotherington Primary School</i>	<i>Page 7</i>
<i>Gotherington Singers</i>	<i>Page 8</i>
<i>Local History Society – WW! Centenary Obituaries</i>	<i>Page 12</i>
<i>Neighbourhood watch</i>	<i>Page 9</i>
<i>Old Chapel Community Project</i>	<i>Page 10</i>
<i>Parent and Toddler Group</i>	<i>Page 11</i>
<i>Parish Council Report</i>	<i>Page 15</i>
<i>Petanque Club</i>	<i>Page 8</i>
<i>Poppy Appeal</i>	<i>Page 14</i>
<i>Rex Rhodes Building</i>	<i>Page 17</i>
<i>Rec Club – Bonfire Night</i>	<i>Page 15</i>
<i>Village Hall Coffee Mornings</i>	<i>Page 17</i>
<i>Village Hall Committee Report</i>	<i>Page 16</i>
<i>Village Event 2019</i>	<i>Page 17</i>
<i>W.I</i>	<i>Page 18</i>
<i>Wine Club</i>	<i>Page 19</i>

TOPICS OF INTEREST

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

The next edition (Spring 2019) is due out during the week starting 18th March 2019

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
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) 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

GOTHERINGTON BROWNIES

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

~ ~ ~ This page has intentionally been left blank ~ ~ ~

After a lovely summer break we are back with a packed programme for the new term. "Girl-guiding" have launched a brand new programme for all sections of Guiding, with exciting new badges and activities. We have already made a start and the girls are really enjoying the new challenges.

We held a pamper pyjama party to say goodbye to our amazing young leaders, Alice and Ellie, who have headed off to university. We all wish them well and will really miss them. And coming up we have a sleepover in the soft play centre in Stroud, a trip to the Panto at the Everyman, and lots of games and adventures planned this term.

One of our leaders will be stepping down in May, leaving us with a gap in our team. If anyone is interested in coming along to help on a regular basis, please do get in touch.

Brownies meet on Monday evenings from 6pm-7.30pm in the Village Hall and we welcome girls between 7 and 10 years old. We are currently full but please let me know if you'd like your daughter on the waiting list.

Kirsten

GOTHERINGTON RAINBOWS

Contact: Emily Parsons gottheringtonrainbowguides@hotmail.com

As new leader, I've been busy getting to know everyone! We now know what our favourite animals and colour are and what we would like to be in the future. Also, we have been drawing, making craft items, playing lots of fun games and earning some badges!

Rainbows meet on Monday evenings from 3.30pm-4.45pm in the Village Hall and we welcome girls between 5 and 7 years old. We are currently full but please let me know if you'd like your daughter on the waiting list.

Emily

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 letter in the last couple of weeks in September. Summer is a distant memory, children have returned to school and the wedding season is slowly coming to an end for another year. And now I am looking forward to the busiest time of year for "us Vicars", as a fellow minister put it!

As I mentioned, September sees our young folk return to school and for me this means that "Open the Book" begins again for another season (for those who don't know what 'Open the Book' is it is a group of church people who enact out Bible stories with the help of the children.) Also my role as a School Governor resumes after the summer break.

October sees the round of harvest services in the Benefice (although Woolstone started in September). This is a wonderful opportunity to give thanks to God for the generosity of creation and to remember how fortunate we are compared to so many in the world. It is also an opportunity for our congregations to continue to support the work of the Food Bank.

November is remembrance month for me - not only for Remembrance Sunday itself (and most particularly in this year as we remember the 100th anniversary of the end of World War One), but also because of All Souls, when our minds think of those whom we have loved and who are no longer with us.

Then of course after that comes (I'm not going to mention the 'C' word too early, but of course that seems to start earlier every year).

So, many things will be happening during the next few months and I hope you will join us at some point to commemorate, celebrate and give thanks.

With my best wishes

Richard Reakes, The Vicarage, Malleson Road, Gotherington

~ ~ ~ This page has intentionally been left blank ~ ~ ~

GOTHERINGTON GARDENING CLUB

Rob Cronin – Club Chairman

<http://gotherington.org.uk/gardening-club/>

~ ~ ~ This page has intentionally been left blank ~ ~ ~

As this will be our last TOPICS entry for 2018, I would like to reflect on the garden visits we had this year and our exciting growing competition.

This year we had two outings to two very different gardens. The first was Bowood House and Gardens. Picture a glorious hot summers day, this mature garden looked stunning. A mix of formal beds and tightly clipped topiary alongside exuberant, vibrant planting. I sadly had to miss this one! I did attend our second outing, this time The Walled Garden at Croome Court. Privately owned by Chris Cronin (no relation) and his wife Karen, this massive walled garden has been a labour of love for the couple, who started restoring it in 2000. Chris gave a very informative guided tour of the garden followed by some nibbles and wine! Definitely a garden to revisit in the future. You can see some pictures of our garden visits by going to our web page (see link at the top). We will start planning our 2019 garden visits in the new year. Come and join us!

By the time you receive this edition our October member evening will have taken place. I am looking forward to finding out which of our members have the greenest fingers, as we will be handing out prizes in the biggest pumpkin and marrow competition. Check our web page for pictures of the evening and prizewinners. It is never too late to join the gardening club. Pop along to our November meeting in the village hall, starts 8pm. First meeting is free, a bargain!

The Club meets on the 3rd Wednesday of each month (except August) in the Village Hall, with 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.

Rob Cronin

NEWS FROM THE NURSERIES

www.gotheringtonnurseries.co.uk

Contact: Phone 01242 676722

We are ready for the Autumn season with an amazing choice of home grown Autumn and Winter bedding plants including pansies, violas, wallflowers, polyanthus, basket and container plants and cyclamen. Seasonal hanging baskets are available too.

Our spring flowering bulbs are in stock now ready for autumn planting. They offer great value for money and are a lovely way to brighten up the garden. Plant them in containers with your winter bedding plants to provide some extra colour in the Spring.

Autumn lawn care products are available now for treating your lawn before the winter comes. Please don't be tempted to use up lawn feed products from the Spring as this will cause soft, new growth which will be affected by the frost and consequently damage the lawn.

In the shop, we have garden tools ideal for those Autumn jobs such as clearing leaves, planting bulbs, harvesting fruit and pruning. Don't forget those gifts for the keen gardener or National Garden Gift Vouchers too.

We've taken delivery of our new stock of shrubs for Autumn colour, soft fruit bushes, potted hedging plants, ornamental and fruit trees. Plant now so they have time to get established before the colder weather arrives. Raspberry canes and bare root hedging will be available mid-October.

Barry has recently retired, and we thank him for his invaluable help and wish him well. We welcome Maria who has recently joined our team.

A reminder that we are open 9am – 5pm Monday to Saturday and 10am - 4pm on Sundays. View our website at www.gotheringtonnurseries.co.uk and look on our Facebook page for regular updates and pictures.

Happy gardening!

Mark and Liz

WINE CLUB

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

www.gotherington.org.uk/wine-club

The summer has slowly backed away to leave Autumn and those lovely rich reds to enjoy while reminiscing about the wonderful hot summer that we had this year. The membership of the Wine Club continues to grow and we even have a couple of members who are "teetotallers" but who come along to join in with their friends and to have a good evening.

Our July evening at the Pavilion was once again a great success with 54 members enjoying a buffet supper, plenty of wine and lively chitchat. In August we went on a coach trip to Bath and spent the morning at the American Museum at Cleverton Manor which was followed by a leisurely river cruise along the River Avon in the afternoon.

Fish, Chips and Fizz was on the agenda for our September meeting and this is proving to be a popular event that all members enjoy – and in case you're wondering, no we didn't have the ploughman's supper as well!

October will see the much-anticipated event when we get to know who is the 'Wine Taster of the Year'. Last year Cora Patel was a worthy winner and as far as I can remember no one has ever won this prestigious trophy twice in succession. Perhaps 2018 could be the first! In November we welcome Sixteen Ridges Vineyard from Ledbury to hear the history of their vineyard and bringing some of their local wines for us to taste.

Once again we are having our Christmas Party at the Shutters in December and will be entertained by Brian Black, a local musician who covers all music tastes which is no mean feat!

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 a time to relax and chat.

Howard Samuels, Chairperson

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

We've been looking after our health this summer. In June, we heard an interesting talk from Janet Dowling about combating stress. In July, we were taken by "sight and sound" to relax in the Forest of Dean with Barry Mills. His beautiful photographs of the forest birds were accompanied by a recording of each bird's song.

In August, we held our own Health and Well-Being Day in Oxenton. Divided into groups, we practised the art of quilling and saw how to create an attractive structure using three flowerpots and a variety of herbs. After lunch in Rosie's garden, we watched a demonstration in her kitchen as she cooked two healthy and very tasty dishes.

Our August meeting was held in St. Michael's Centre in Bishops Cleeve, due to the unavailability of both Gotherington and Oxenton Village Halls. In competition with church bell ringing practice, our speaker Steve Wilkes took us to twenty places that he and his wife over seventeen years visited, and where their accommodation varied from a mud hut to a hotel made entirely of salt – even the beds. Steve and Helen are intrepid travellers!

We have enjoyed some friendly skittles matches, several pub lunches and, of course, our weekly Art Group. Some members have tried "walking netball" and Tai Chi, which have become regular activities.

Future meetings include The Cotswold Perfumery, The Star Centre, Trials of a T.V. Extra, our Christmas Party and the WI Annual Christmas Concert in the Town Hall, which this year features 'Only Men Aloud'.

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. Do go to our website to find out more – www.gtwowi.org.uk.

We look forward to seeing you!

Jill Parsons

GOTHERINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

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

As the new term begins, it is really pleasing to see that the school community has returned for the busy term ahead refreshed and full of excitement. We have welcomed new members of staff who have all settled in really well. Pleasingly, our new Reception class has also settled into school routines and are clearly enjoying the wide range of activities that they have available to them.

Although the new term has only just started, there have been some highlights already: Year 6 completed their 'Evacuation Experience' to enhance their WWII topic; Year 5 really enjoyed a trip to the Malvern Hills and Year 2 amazed us all with their Roald Dahl Day celebration – the costumes were wonderful.

Over the course of the summer holidays, we have created a new Learning Resource Room. This has replaced the old ICT Suite and will provide some much-needed space as well as a modern area for children to continue to develop their love of technology.

The school is really grateful for the support it has received from the Friends of Gotherington School and a number of parents. Without their help, this project would not have been achievable. It is a wonderful addition to the school which I am sure will make a massive difference to every child.

Ben Jordan, Headteacher Gotherington Primary School

GOTHERINGTON SINGERS

www.gotheringtonsingers.co.uk

Gotherington Singers Christmas Concert

Gotherington Singers' Christmas Concert will take place this year on Wednesday December 19th 7.30pm at St Nicolas' Church, Swindon Lane, Cheltenham GL50 4PA. We are proud to welcome back the acclaimed harpist Mark Harmer, who will join us for the evening.

Our concerts are always very popular so make sure you get your tickets early, either from a choir member or by phoning 01242 620775. Come and join us to hear some lovely Christmas music in this beautiful church.

We are always happy to welcome new members. Previous experience is not necessary, just a love of singing. 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.

GOTHERINGTON PETANQUE CLUB

Contact: David Ward on 675080 or Christine Godsell on 672821

It might seem a strange way to put it, but this has been the year of "The Weather" for us - either too hot to play or too wet to play - and we have had to cancel a surprising number of events due to the very wet conditions.

Our BBQ day planned for the 12th August was cancelled and the Shutter Shield Singles, which for many is the highlight of the year, was eventually played at a later date.

However, we soldier on and would be thrilled if you'd like to join in. We meet on the piste (Freeman Field) on Sunday mornings at 10am and Wednesdays and Fridays at 2pm. Please come along and have a go. We always have spare boules for you to borrow.

Christine Godsell Secretary

VILLAGE HALL COFFEE MORNINGS

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

It surely cannot only be 3 months to Christmas - but saying that it is a good and cheerful time to come along to the Village Hall Coffee Mornings.

During the cold and icy conditions and if you do not want to risk walking to the Village Hall, please give me a ring and we can easily arrange for someone to give you a lift and back home later. There is absolutely no reason to miss out on all of the chitchat and gossip!

The coffee morning is a social occasion and is open to all and therefore provides an ideal opportunity to meet new people and make new friends.

Please do come along from about 10.30 am to about mid-day on the first Saturday of the month (except January and August). Entry is free and there is a nominal charge for tea/coffee and cake.

Christine Godsell, Gotherington Village Hall Coffee Mornings

VILLAGE EVENT 2019

We all feel it is time to hold another Village Event following the success of the Fete in 2016 held to celebrate the Queens 90th birthday. As you can imagine, this will take a lot of planning and with that in mind we need volunteers to be part of a team to organise and take this project forward.

Please let me know if you would like to play a role and help with this event by emailing me at hsamuels@btinternet.com or phone 672492.

Howard Samuels on behalf of the Parish Council

COMMUNITY BUILDINGS

The Rex Rhodes Building is being refurbished with new guttering and fascias, new front door and new rear door leading out to the grassed play area. It is fully equipped including a fridge and, at a hire charge of £8.00 per hour for local residents, this is an ideal venue for all types of functions.

Howard Samuels on behalf of the Parish Council

GOTHERINGTON VILLAGE HALL

Contacts: Kevin Gowing - Secretary (01242 672240 e: kevin.gowing@gmail.com)

Howard Samuels - Treasurer (01242 672492 e: hsamuels@btinternet.com)

Bookings: <http://gotherington.org.uk/village-hall-bookings>

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

Gotherington Village Hall has received some well overdue TLC during the summer including:

- *repairs to the roof and skylights above the kitchen - which is now watertight.*
- *A general internal refurbishment of the kitchen area and hall including the fitting of automatic self-closing taps in the ladies' and gent's toilets - which will help save water and reduce running costs.*
- *the floor in the main hall has been resurfaced and everyone agrees it looks amazing!*
- *a general tidy-up and face-lift to the outside of the building, including repairs to the front facade and the addition of safety grab rails to the side-entrance.*

This is my first Topics submission as Chair of the Village Hall Management Committee and I would like to record thanks from all of the committee members to Peter for all the time and effort that he has given to supporting the work of the committee.

We are always looking for new people, particularly representatives of user groups, to get involved in the running of the Hall in order to ensure that we continue to respond to the needs of the village. Also, by becoming a Trustee independent of a group, enables the committee to remain sensitive to the needs of the residents of Gotherington. The roles are interesting and flexible and the committee would be happy to discuss what they entail in more detail. Should you be interested, please contact one of the committee members above for more information.

Kevin Gowing (Acting Chair GVHMC)

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

www.gotherington.org.uk/neighbourhood-watch

Contact: John Hicks (Long Furlong Park) 676848, Mary Manders-Trett (Malleeson 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

More people will be affected by the 'fear of crime' than actually becoming a victim of crime. Think of all those times when you took the longer route rather than taking the short cut. How often do you check the location of your purse, wallet, phone or bag after leaving a crowded shop? And why do you lock your home at night?

Here are a few reminders to keep you safe and out of harm's way. Wherever you are:

- *Let someone know where you're going.*
- *Plan your journey.*
- *If you exercise, do it during the day, on well-lit busy streets.*
- *Be aware of your surroundings.*
- *Consider carrying a personal attack alarm.*
- *Carry your bag in front of you so you can see the openings.*
- *Keep your phone and money safe.*
- *Keep your keys in a separate pocket.*

ICE (In Case of Emergency) is a means of helping the emergency services contact your next-of-kin if you're involved in an accident. If you carry a mobile phone, simply store the name and number to be contacted with the letters ICE in front of their name. If you don't have a phone, simply write the details down and place in your pocket.

Howard Samuels

OLD CHAPEL COMMUNITY PROJECT

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

After a quiet summer, mainly spent waiting for the Charity Commission to confirm the registration of the Old Chapel Community Project as a charity, it's now full steam ahead for the purchase and re-opening of the building as a community resource.

The confirmation of charity status was received in late August, followed a few weeks later by registration with HMRC, allowing Gift Aid to be claimed on donations. The Gift Aid soon mounts up to a substantial extra contribution – once again, a big thank you to those that have donated.

Solicitors have now been instructed to go ahead with the purchase. At the time of writing we don't have a final purchase date, but expectations are for early October. Look out for news of an event to celebrate the purchase and re-opening – hopefully on 3 November! We also plan to have the building open on Remembrance Sunday for refreshments and a wartime display – with donations in aid of the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal.

The next big phase of activity will be the obtaining of the grants required for the full refurbishment of the building. In the meantime, you may have noticed activity in the Old Chapel – a mini refurbishment is underway, including a lick of paint and a new carpet so that the building can be opened for bookings when the purchase is complete. If you would like to book the Old Chapel for an event or party please contact Bev Osbourne on 07974101659 or e-mail Oldchapelbookings@gmail.com. The vision for the project is for the building to be integrated with the existing village amenities to create extra capacity and flexibility for the benefit of all.

Andy Stillman

GOTHERINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

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

Since the last edition of Topics, I am sorry to have to report that Jules Owen, the Parish Clerk, has resigned for personal reasons. Jules was a great help to me in my new role as GPC Chairman, giving me guidance and advice when needed.

Ellie Arnett also resigned during this last period, again for personal reasons and we all miss the enthusiasm and passion that she brought to the role of a Parish Councillor.

We have interviewed a new Clerk and have offered him the job and hope that he will be starting his Clerk duties at the October meeting.

We are short of two Parish Councillors and if you are interested in becoming a Councillor then please contact me. The Parish Council elections are next May 2019, so the period will be for only a few months making this a good opportunity to give it a go and see if it is something that you might like to do for a longer period of time.

The Grange development in Malleson Road is proceeding quite quickly and I am hoping to arrange meetings with Charles Church (Persimmon Homes) to get more feedback from them. My aim will be for any meeting to be “open” meeting so that residents can attend as well.

We are in the process of trialing a new on-line booking system that will be used by both the Parish Council and the Village Hall for all of their bookings. We feel this is the best way forward but there is much to do before we are able to achieve this.

Howard Samuels, Chair of the Parish Council

REC CLUB BONFIRE

The annual Village Bonfire & Fireworks this year will be on Sunday 4th November. Opening will be at 17.00hrs, with Bonfire lighting at approximately 17.30 followed by the Firework display.

POPPY APPEAL

Contact: Brian Cosgrove on yvonnecosgrove@btinternet.com

In 2018 The Royal British Legion is leading the nation in saying “thank you” to the First World War generation who served, sacrificed and changed our world.

This year, Remembrance Sunday will be on 11th November. This is an occasion to remember those who have given their lives in the service of their country. It is especially poignant in a year that marks the 100th anniversary to the end of “the War to end all Wars”.

Whilst we remember the fallen in the First World War, we must not forget those who lost their lives in subsequent conflicts and their surviving families. The welfare support given by the Royal British Legion to ex-servicemen and their families costs a significant amount and the Poppy Appeal raises funds to help keep this support going. The Legion spends £1.4 million per week delivering welfare support to serving and ex-service people, young and old, and their families.

Neither should we forget those who, though surviving, have been left severely mentally scarred by their experiences. We should remember that members of the armed services pledge to serve the Crown in the defence of this country and to go wherever they are sent by the civil power.

During the run-up to Remembrance Sunday, volunteer collectors will be calling on houses in the village and collecting boxes will be in place in local businesses. Any donation you can make will be greatly appreciated.

Thank you to everyone.

Brian & Yvonne Cosgrove

PARENT AND TODDLER GROUP

Contact: Emily Charnock 07855 279778
gotheringtontoddlers@hotmail.co.uk

Firstly, I would like to thank Rachel Evans and all the committee members for doing such an amazing job at running the group last year, and we are so pleased that some of you are continuing to be involved with the group this year as well. We also have some new faces on the Committee with lots of new ideas.

After our break during August we have started back in September as busy as ever. We have had lots of new families join us which is great, and it's exciting to see so many new babies who will hopefully enjoy the group over the next few years!

We have many exciting events planned over the next few months including a photo shoot session with Vikki Kelly on the 16th and 19th October. Hopefully the weather will be kind and we can get some lovely autumnal shots of the children outside. The photos will make lovely Christmas gifts too! Following that, the “Paint It Yourself Pottery Company” are running a session with us on Tuesday 13th November, so please put these dates in your diaries.

We meet on Tuesday and Friday mornings in the Village Hall from 9.30am - 11.30am and welcome all with babies and toddlers up to pre-school age.

The cost is £2 per family and we have a large selection of toys and a craft activity every week, as well as a singing session. It is run by parents on a rota basis.

Please see our Facebook page for updates, or email us at gotheringtontoddlers@hotmail.co.uk if you would like to receive further information.

Emily Charnock

WORLD WAR ONE CENTENARIES

Thomas (known as Dick) Williamson of Woolstone, killed in action, 8th November 1918, and his brother, Edward (known as Jack), who died of malarial fever, 7th December 1918.

Dick and Jack came to live at Grange Farm, Woolstone, from Staffordshire as children after their grandmother bought a portfolio of property in the area including The Grange and its adjacent farm. Their father worked as her tenant dairy farmer and was a breeder of polo ponies. As well as Dick and Jack the Williamsons had three other children, an older daughter and two younger sons.

Dick was conscripted into the army in 1917, the year he turned 18. He enlisted at Cheltenham and, due to the large number of men who came forward, he was placed in a reserve battalion to do his training. Later he was sent to join the First Battalion of the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry 'B' Company.

Although no records survive of his military service, two of his letters, written from the front, have survived. The first, to his brother Jack, was written in September 1918. In it, Dick writes that he has seen a 'good share of the fighting'. He observes that he hasn't seen any civilians during the past month and that every village he walks through is just a heap of ruins. The dry, sunny weather reminds him of the harvest fields and the haymaking he'd helped with at Woolstone two years before. He then abruptly signs off supposing that Jack must be 'tired of this ramble'. Dick's final letter was written two weeks before he was killed in action, this time to his brother, Fred. His thoughts are focussed on the family and farm (in particular, the loss of the walnut harvest).

The death of their eldest son so close to the end of the war was tragic enough and yet for the Williamsons more pain was to come when their second son, Jack, died on board HMT Benguela, off the west coast of Africa, only 1 month later. Jack was serving as a cadet in the Merchant Navy. The ship left Sierra

Leone on 6th December, it's next destination Tenerife where it was due to dock on 9th December. Only one day into the voyage, Jack succumbed to malarial fever and was buried at sea. He was 17 years old.

Dick and Jack are commemorated on a plaque at Woolstone Church.

Sidney Pitman of Gotherington (died from TB, 27th January 1919)

Sidney was born in Gotherington in 1896, the 10th of 11 children born to Joseph and Emma Pitman. The family lived in Woodbine Cottage in the centre of the village. When he was 3, Sidney began his school career; it meant a 50-yard walk. He left school 10 years later, not knowing that more than half his life was already over.

He worked initially on the land where he developed a love of horses. Later he became an insurance agent. When war broke out, Sidney was not an early volunteer; but in September 1915 he was recruited into the Army and was able to work with horses in their transport role in the Royal Engineers. After some 8 months training in Aldershot, and having gained his first stripe, he was sent to France in May 1916. The Allies were preparing their major summer offensive subsequently known as the Battle of the Somme.

Sidney was admitted to hospital in November with TB; released within days, he was re-admitted in March 1917 for a further 2 months before being sent back to England. After nearly a year in hospital it was decided that he was not likely to make a substantial recovery so he was discharged from the Army in May 1918 with a pension. His condition failed to improve; on 27 January 1919 he died, aged 22, in hospital in Aldershot. He is buried in the Churchyard of St Michael's and remembered on the memorials here and in Bishop's Cleeve.

"We will remember them"

Caroline Meller & David Griffiths