

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)	
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	Viv Nicholson 0124 523168 or 07976624736	
Local History Society	4th Tue 7:30pm	Caroline Meller (677489) / Pat Sory (620681)	
Parent and Toddler Group	Tue, Fri 9.30am	Emily Charnock (07855 279778)	
Neighbourhood Watch		John Hicks (676848) / Mary Manders-Trett (674592) Howard Samuels (672492) Les Howard 677949 / Berian Thomas 674397	
Old Chapel Bookings		Bev Osborne (07974101659 oldchapelbookings@gmail.com)	
Oxenton Village Hall Oxenton Village Bookings		Chairman: Jenny Lockwood (676597) / Secretary: Linda Howard Valerie Martin (673233)	
Parish Council	2nd Tue 7.30pm	Howard Samuels (672492) hsamuels@btinternet.com Robert Stone (07943398987) gotheringtonpc@gmail.com	
Parish Council Clerk		Sarah Whitehead (674489)	
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	Rotating Chairman Kevin Gowing (672240) Bev Osborne (675741) Howard Samuels (672492)	
Village Hall Coffee Mornings. 1st Sat excl Jan & Aug		Christine Godsell (672821)/ Bev Osborne (675741)	
Wine Club	Chairperson Secretary	Howard Samuels (672492) hsamuels@btinternet.com Christine Godsell (672821) candegodsell@tiscali.co.uk	
3rd Tue 8pm			
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 2019

“When, oh when, is it going to happen?” You hear people asking this so often, particularly now as the 29th March hurtles towards us. But don’t panic - I’m not going to mention the “B” word. After all, there are so many other examples for us to consider. For instance, “When will Summer be here?” Some look for the arrival of migrating birds like the Swallow, but that doesn’t guarantee success – hence “One swallow doesn’t make a summer”. But how many Swallows would it actually take?

A similar example might be “When will Spring arrive?”. One warm, sunny Friday morning in the middle of last month, we saw two eager (lady) tennis players limbering up on the village courts, waiting to play their regular Friday doubles match. Soon, the third and then the fourth player arrived and they were off. Was this a sign of Spring, we asked? And how many players would be needed to say that Spring had arrived – might two have been sufficient or would it need four to qualify? Who knows?

In any event, if you find yourself wondering when things are going to happen in Gotherington this Spring, you need look no further than inside this edition of Topics – everything you need is inside, so happy reading!

The Editor

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TOPICS OF INTEREST

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

The next edition (Summer 2019) is due out during the week starting 15th July 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

Ellie Arnett		07739 044356
Rodney Churchill		662837
Allen Keyte	(Vice Chair)	674446
Lewis Harmer		671050
Beverly Osborne		675741
Cora Patel		463499
Mavis Rear		674470
Caroline Ryman		673707
Howard Samuels	(Chair)	672492
David Ward		675080

As at 15/6/2018

Contacts – General

Police	(0845 0901234)
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)
Cleavelands Medical Centre	(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

Spring is certainly creeping in and the trend for 2109 seems to be Vegan wines as more and more people are looking for all things plant-based. Rest assured, the Wine Club will continue to search high and wide to bring the membership something different and exciting.

We had the AGM in January after which members were given 3 different Ports and 3 different wines to taste with each one being accompanied with appropriate food. We usually have the buffet at the end of the evening so this was the first time that we have done this and it proved very popular with those members who came along.

Allen Keyte is moving on to other things and we would like to thank him for his work and enthusiasm that he has brought to the Club and we now welcome Pam Hemingway who has joined the Committee and will no doubt work tirelessly to promote the Club going forwards! I should mention that the 2018 Gotherington Wine Taster of the year was Angela Thomas who was a worthy winner.

We have a very exciting year ahead including the Summer Fete where the Wine Club will no doubt be serving the wines along with advice and tasting notes so that people can see whether they agree with the 'experts'!

The full 2019 program is on the Wine Club website and Facebook page. I would just mention that our April meeting on the 16th is a presentation from Miles Morgan Travel & Kirker Holidays called "Topsy in Tuscany and beyond". This will be very popular so do come along a bit earlier.

We meet every 3rd Tuesday (except July & August) at 8pm at the Village Hall and always welcome new members to the Wine Club. 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 BROWNIES

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

Our Brownie pack is thriving, with 5 new Brownies recently having joined and made their Promise. We have said goodbye to some of our older girls who will head off to Guides soon.

We had a fantastic time at the Everyman Pantomime before Christmas and a fun session with lots of Christmas crafts. The girls have been enjoying the activities that our newly re-vamped programme has to offer, with many of them earning the new badges.

We celebrated World Thinking Day with activities focussing on Leadership. Thinking Day, 22nd February, is the birthday of the founders Lord and Lady Baden-Powell when Guides and Scouts think about their brothers and sisters around the world and raise funds for those less fortunate than themselves.

We are off to the PGL centre in Swindon for our Brownie holiday this year for a variety of adventurous outdoor activities.

Brownies meet on Monday evenings in the Village Hall and is for 7-10 year old girls. Our Brownie pack is currently full, but if you would like to add your daughter to the waiting list then please do get in touch.

Unfortunately Gotherington Rainbows has closed for the time being, but we are hopeful that it will reopen later in the year.

Kirsten

NEWS FROM THE VICAR!

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

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

With the current situation in our country, I thought these words from our Bishop might help put things into perspective. She writes:

“We continue to live in turbulent and uncertain times regarding the U.K.’s withdrawal from the European Union. Wishing that things had been done differently will not change where we are, but we can be involved in shaping the future. There is much to ponder about the world we want to be part of, locally, nationally and globally. Ultimately that world is shaped by relationship and not legislation.

Whatever happens regarding the Brexit process, it is my hope and prayer that, as individuals and worshipping communities, we will continue to discern our role in reconciliation and peace-making within our communities during the coming weeks and months. We are all aware of places where generosity and kindness appear to be in short supply and I hope and pray that we can be those who live a spaciousness of heart and vision, both with and among people who are divided.

How can we work with other partners to enable diverse views and feelings to be expressed, rooted in a commitment to deepening and expanding relationships between people even in places of profound disagreement?

All too often, anxiety and bewilderment narrow our vision. So may our eyes, ears and hearts be ready to encounter yet more of the mystery, glory and overwhelming love of God revealed in Jesus Christ, and to live what that means for all people in our communities, particularly those who feel unseen, unheard and unvalued. And may we continue to find ways of playing a significant role in changing the narrative of fear and division as we join in with God’s narrative of unchanging hope and love.”

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

We have enjoyed some excellent speakers over the past few months. A talk about The Cotswold Perfumery at Bourton on the Water in September gave us an opportunity to try six perfumes brought along by the speaker, Pam Slater. In October, Richard Burton told us about his work demonstrating cooking utensils in large stores. Lorraine Parsloe entertained us in November with tales of life as a T.V. extra - who knew that scene backgrounds are mimed and filmed in silence to enable the principal actors to hear the director? Speech, applause, music etc. are added later. We had a lovely Christmas party in December where, after we had eaten, Matthew Sproston, the Ukulele Man, had us all singing along to well known songs.

There was a lot of food involved over Christmas with meals out for the Art Group, the Committee and the Pub Lunch Group. Some members went to the Everyman to see the Messiah, a very amusing play. Several attended the GFWI Christmas Concert at the Town Hall, with guest artists “Only Men Aloud”. Others attended a glass fusion workshop at Sarah Brown’s studio in Tewkesbury, where they made some Christmas items.

In January Jan Long returned to talk about Elizabeth Barrett Browning. Elizabeth led a very restricted life until she met and married Robert Browning, but wrote a great deal of poetry which was very well received.

Tai Chi classes are ongoing and we are looking forward to more interesting talks and activities this year.

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.gwowi.org.uk.

We look forward to seeing you!

Jill Parsons

VILLAGE HALL COFFEE MORNINGS

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

Is the sun shining? Can we say it is Spring yet? Not as I write this, but hopefully by the time you read it, it will be. We have had our share of dark and dismal days following the artificial brightness of Christmas, and now we can truly look forward to some warmer days.

Whatever the time of the year though, you are always certain of a warm welcome at Coffee Mornings. A great place to meet old friends and newcomers. If you feel a bit nervous, or it is your first time, pop your head round the door and ask for me – I will do my best to introduce you to like-minded people.

We are what we say – a village coffee morning where you can buy hot drinks, delicious homemade cake, first class bacon rolls, and juice and biscuits for youngsters - we have a table where they can chat, giggle and colour. But age is no barrier to enjoying yourselves - so if you are ninety and would like to chat, giggle and colour, that can be arranged! We have some craft tables and books for you to browse.

If you forget to look at the books, you can pick one up at any time you're in the Village Hall. They are always on display in the hall and there is an honesty box for your 50p donation.

For those in the field, or watching their children play, you may take drinks etc away with you. Great for sustenance on a chilly pitch side.

And a final reminder all the profits from the Coffee Mornings are donated to the Village Hall towards its maintenance – a vital village asset.

Christine Godsell, Gotherington Village Hall Coffee Mornings

CRICKET CLUB

www.gotheringtoncc.org.uk

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

We enjoyed an excellent 2018 season with some great games including a win against the Royal Household Cricket Club in June. It was a lovely event with an excellent tea in the village Marquee (many thanks to Rob Swinson for his help) and a post match BBQ (thank you Bev and Rich Osborne). We had very good feedback from the RHCC and spectators and have been invited back to Windsor Castle again next season.

With guidance from Brian and Yvonne Cosgrove and skills development from Gecko we have children from age 7 upwards, an u11 side and an u15 side. Brian Cosgrove continues to do the work of several men working on the ground and running net sessions and matches – the Club is very grateful for his huge contribution. We have also invested in junior development with a bowling machine funded in large part by our 100 Club and some much appreciated one-off donations. Also, the Club is grateful for a grant from Persimmon homes that will go towards a new mower.

The tour to Paris last September to play the Standard Athletic Club of Paris was a memorable occasion for all involved. In addition to players we also had some welcome support and it saw the return of stalwart Nick Freeman. We drew the Saturday game in an exciting finale and, whilst beaten in a 20/20 on Sunday, put in a good performance with Alistair Sharp becoming the first GCC player to score an overseas 50!

We are hoping that 3 or 4 new arrivals to the village will be able to turn out for us for at least a few games in 2019 because we now require a squad of 35 or more players over a season to fulfil our fixture list.

Finally, the Club would like to thank Tim Hearn who stood down as Secretary after many years service across a range of roles. He will continue to play some games but of course now we need a new Secretary. Would any parent or villager be willing to volunteer? Please let us know!

Rob Sharp

GARDENING CLUB

Contact: Rob Cronin (321644)

www.gotherington.org.uk/gardening-club

By the time you are reading this edition, Spring will have well and truly sprung with Narcissi, Tulips, Hyacinths and Hellebores to brighten our days. Hopefully we can slowly start to enjoy our gardens again, and spend more time outdoors.

In October we ate, drank and admired samples of homemade chutneys, jams, honey, sloe gin and cakes at a "Members Evening". The winner of the "grow a pumpkin competition" came in at a whopping 157.5 cm with the smallest a mere 20 cm!

In November, a seasonal talk on "The Holly and the Ivy" entertained us with facts and folk lore, followed by the Christmas Party in December which was a great success.

For 2019 we have a great programme of talks planned (see below for the next two or find the full programme on the website), as well as our annual Garden Party in June, and a summer garden visit, which is usually combined with morning coffee, lunch and sometimes a tour, with plenty of time to explore the gardens yourselves!

The Gardening Club was delighted to welcome 12 new members last year. If you'd like to join us for a free taster session, we meet at 7.30 p.m. on the 3rd Wednesday of the month (except August) in the Village Hall.

March 20 th	Westbury Court Garden - Jerry Green from the National Trust
April 17 th	Development of a cut flower business and flower plot at Primrose Vale Farm - Liz Fallon (Cotswold Posy Patch, Cheltenham)

Kate Button

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>

The Village Hall has continued to be extremely well used, particularly over the Christmas period with a variety of parties held by the Village Clubs and also private functions. With the start of 2019, Village Clubs have resumed their regular meetings and there are several new groups holding dance and exercise classes plus a children's group.

The monthly Coffee Mornings have also resumed giving us a chance to renew old acquaintances and meet new people over coffee and cake.

Repairs and upkeep of the Village Hall have continued throughout the winter months. Taps in the Ladies Toilets have been modified and the water heating system in the toilets is scheduled for renewal. Also, the Hall heating system has been adjusted, the projector screen lifted and the emergency exit signs are to be updated.

Work is progressing to allow the Management Committee to become a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. The "Hallmaster" online booking system has been successfully trialed and is to go ahead. Also, a new locking system is being investigated. Information will be circulated when the changes come into effect.

If your Group meets regularly in the Village Hall and you do not have a representative on the Management Committee, you may want to contribute opinions or ideas - so please think about joining the Committee. Meetings are held every couple of months, so please contact one of the Committee members if you are interested.

Mary Manders-Trett (Acting Chair GVHMC)

GOTHERINGTON TENNIS CLUB

Contact: Andrew Harrington 677039 or Ian Donnelly on 674404

<http://www.gotherington.org.uk/tennis.asp>

<https://www.facebook.com/GotheringtonTennis>

Exciting times ahead this year as the club enters its 50th year! We already have several events planned, so everyone please keep an eye out for emails and upcoming announcements to ensure you don't miss out!

Junior tennis returns to the courts down at Freeman Fields in March, having spent the winter months at the indoor facility at Winchcombe. We cater for 2 age brackets with details as follows:

Ages 5-8 9:00 – 9:45

Ages 9-12 10:00- 11:00

These sessions with club coach Liam Gough, are extremely popular. However we still have places in the earlier session, so please contact me if you are interested.

A huge tidy up operation has been carried out, which included demossing and pressure washing the courts and weeding and tidying up the surrounding areas. A big thank you to all our members who gave up their time. Our facilities are a magnificent asset to the village and are 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.

Summer play commences on Sunday 31st March as follows:

<i>Monday Evening</i>	<i>from 18:00</i>
<i>Weds Evening</i>	<i>from 18:00</i>
<i>Fri afternoon</i>	<i>from 13:00 – 15:30</i>
<i>Sunday Morning Juniors</i>	<i>from 09:00 – 11:00</i>
<i>Sunday Morning Adults</i>	<i>from 11:00 – 12:30</i>

Ian Donnelly

NEWS FROM THE NURSERIES

www.gotheringtonnurseries.co.uk

Contact: Phone 01242 676722

During the winter months we have been getting ready for the busy Spring season. We have finished our new tree area and received our first deliveries of trees, shrubs and roses. The plant area is filling up with herbs, cottage garden plants, rockery plants and flowering spring bulbs to brighten up the garden. Our home-grown early spring bedding plants are ready now. For container gardening, we have a new range of terracotta and glazed pots including the beautiful Heritage range. We stock a comprehensive range of specialist composts including peat free and decorative gravels.

For the grower we have seed potatoes, onion sets, shallots, garlic bulbs, flower and vegetable seeds as well as summer flowering bulbs. Our “grow your own” products include a range of cold frames and propagating equipment. We have a good choice of plant care, lawn care and garden care products and specialist bird care products too.

Come and look at the beautiful plants, planted containers and other gift ideas we have available for Mothering Sunday (31st March) and Easter (21st April). Remember we are open 7 days a week Mon – Sat 9 am – 5 pm and Sunday 10 am – 4 pm) however we will be closed Easter Day.

Have you joined our reward scheme? The more you spend the greater the reward. Reward points can be collected at the Nurseries and Toddington Garden Centre and spent at either place by the expiry date. You can fill in an application form at the till.

Visit our website and blog at www.gotheringtonnurseries.co.uk or our Facebook page for regular updates.

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

Happy gardening!

Mark and Liz

GOTHERINGTON SINGERS

Contact: Viv Nicholson 0124 523168 or 07976624736
www.gotheringtonsingers.co.uk

In December, Gotherington Singers held their first Christmas concert with their new Musical Director, Sandra Burne. It was enjoyed immensely by everyone!

We are now looking forward to our next concert, which will take place on 13th July. With the longer, warmer days to look forward to, our focus is very much on Summer. The concert will feature a range of songs on the theme of Summer and there will be a few surprises too.

Gotherington Singers are looking to recruit new members

We have recently lost a few members from the choir so we are particularly keen to recruit new singers. Previous experience is not necessary to join our friendly choir, 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
www.gotherington.org.uk/petanque

P - play; point	B - bomb; balls
E - exercise; enjoyment	O - over the top! oops!
T - take the one! thirteen	U - up to the coche
A - angles; aim; are you sure? or is it	L - lucky; laughing
N - nice one	E - easy; exciting
Q - questionable?	S - Second; skill; shot!
U - useless! Unbelievable!	
E - enthusiasm	

*No matter what you call it,
the game is just the same.*

*You stand and throw the balls around
Be careful where you aim.*

*You laugh, you jeer; you sulk, you cheer,
You try, you win, you lose.*

*You point and shoot; it's hit and miss,
And every game ends with a kiss.*

*Then all the players go home with a smile
'Cos play on the piste has been fun for a while.*

SEE YOU ON THE PISTE!

Christine Godsell, Secretary

GOTHERINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

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

We have two new Parish Councillors and we welcome Mavis Rear and Cora Patel to the Council. This means that we are now at full strength with nine Councillors.

I'm also pleased to advise that our new Clerk is Robert Stone, who has now been with us for a few months. We are fortunate to have his expertise and guidance as we move forwards.

Also, I'm pleased to report that the precept for the year 2019/20 will be £12,000 which is a significant reduction from last year's figure of £20,000.

In addition to the Parish Council website, we now have a Gotherington Parish Council Noticeboard on Facebook which works in unison with the web page to provide up to date information and to keep everyone informed as to what is going on. This can be found at www.facebook.com/GPCNoticeboard/

The Parish Council were asked by Tewkesbury Borough Council to enter an "Expression of Interest" for S106 funds for the Gotherington area. The funds available were over £32,000.00 from which the Parish Council were awarded £9,357.18 from the Centaur development while the S106 funds from the Persimmon development (£23,469.99) was allocated to the Old Chapel project.

***Local Elections are on May 2nd** and we are inviting everyone to consider becoming a local councillor and to stand up for your local community and the interests of local residents. For further information please contact:*

Howard Samuels (672492) hsamuels@btinternet.com

Gotherington Parish Clerk (602384) gotheringtonpc@gmail.com

***Howard Samuels**, Chair of the Parish Council*

GOTHERINGTON VILLAGE STORE

Contact: 01242 672249

Thank you for your welcome and patience with us over the past few months. It has been a whirlwind but things are gradually settling down.

We have made some changes inside and to some services that we provide, so come and have a look and also tell us about what else you would like to see.

The coffee shop is open for coffee/homemade cake, bacon sandwiches or a toasted teacake and there will be more food lines over the next few weeks.

We've a new community notice board, with information about events/local services. Fresh bread, milk, fruit and vegetables are available to order.

There are a number of regular events happening, we will publicise these in advance, however a couple of things for your diary:

***Knit and natter** – Thursdays 10am, knit, embroider, sew, or just natter, we'd love to see you - it's a lovely, friendly group.*

***PCSO drop in** – Pippa, our local Police Community Support Officer will be in store at the following times for you talk to her about issues/concerns:*

Monday 18th March (2-4pm) Tuesday 16th April (10-12am)

Thursday 16th May (10-12am) Friday 14th June (2-4pm)

***Mobile Police Station** will be outside the store on Monday 15th April 10am-12pm. Come along, speak with the officers, sign up to community alerts and receive advice on home security.*

***Shop Opening Times:** 8.15-5pm weekdays 8.30-3.30 at the weekends.*

***Post Office Opening Times:** 8.45-4.45 weekdays 8.30-12.30 Saturdays*

We will look to increase opening times in the shop/coffee shop in summer months so keep an eye out and we will publicise these in advance.

Follow us on Facebook for news/events: contact us on 01242 672249

Kate

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. The 2018/19 Season has also been very positive and we have a good foundation with sides at u6, u8, u9, u11 (x3), u12, u13, u15 and u17.

We have two sides visiting the impressive England Training Complex at St. George's Place to see the facilities and also participate in an FA coach led training session.

The Club has successfully maintained FA Charter Club status and continually strives to improve the coaching levels that we are able to provide 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.

Ian Quartermaine is our new Club Treasurer for the 2018/19 season, 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 agreed to stay in role as Chairman and Secretary until somebody can be found.

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

Rob Sharp, Chairman and Secretary GJFC

PARENT AND TODDLER GROUP

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

The Parent and Toddler Group had a really busy festive period, the highlight being the annual Christmas party. We had a full house, which included entertainment for the children, a party lunch and of course a visit from the big man himself! The raffle was very successful with some amazing prizes on offer. Thank you to our local donors for your support.

Unfortunately, at the end of last year we had to make the tough decision to stop the Friday sessions as they were just too quiet. Not enough families in attendance meant that there was a lack of volunteers on this day. However, the group is thriving on a Tuesday and we are at full capacity every week.

The group is now financially secure and we are looking to invest in some new toys for the little ones and hope there will be funding for a summer trip this year. If anyone does have any good quality toys that they would like to donate to the group, please do get in touch on the details below.

The group is run by parents on a rota basis. We meet on Tuesday mornings in the village hall from 9.30am - 11.30am and welcome all with babies and toddlers up to pre-school age. It costs £2 per family and we have a large selection of toys and a craft activity every week, as well as a singing session.

If you would like more information, please see our Facebook page for updates, or email us at gotheringtontoddlers@hotmail.co.uk

Emily Charnock

OLD CHAPEL COMMUNITY PROJECT

Since the last edition of Topics much has happened at the Old Chapel. Firstly, in November, the Chapel was formally opened by Gotherington's own Edward Gillespie OBE, Lord Lieutenant of Gloucestershire. This wonderful occasion was soon followed by a successful Wartime Exhibition, Santa's Grotto, and a talk on the History of Cleve Hill.

To ensure that the Old Chapel becomes as useful a community resource as possible, a questionnaire was distributed around the village at the start of February. Many thanks to everyone who took part. The results will influence the future events organised, and inform grant applications for refurbishing the Chapel. On the subject of fund-raising, the Chapel has been allocated nearly £23,500 of 'S106' money from the new Gotherington Grange development, a significant boost to refurbishment funds.

A new 'Friend of the Old Chapel' initiative has just been launched to give everyone a chance to get involved in making the Old Chapel a success. This could mean anything from organising an event, helping out at a coffee morning, or picking up a paintbrush.

In addition to the exciting range of activities now available at the Old Chapel, there are a number of special events coming up including Peter Gill performing 'Politically incorrect' on 27 March (limited tickets available from Gotherington Stores), a Hedgehog Trail through the village on 27 April, and a "bake-off" as part of the village summer fete on 27 July.

The Old Chapel is available to hire for private bookings – call 07974101659 or email oldchapelbookings@gmail.com.

Andy Stillman

LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Contacts: Pat Sory (620681) / Caroline Meller (677489)
www.gotherington.org.uk/history-society/

Talks

Each year we endeavour to devise a programme of talks that cover a variety of subjects and time zones. The three talks which fall under this issue of Topics are no exception. On 26th March our talk will focus on 'West Indian Slavery and the Codrington Connection' (Codrington being a village south of Chipping Sodbury rather than a typing error on my part). In April we will hear about the life of St. Kenelm (the Anglo-Saxon boy saint) and the long-distance path which marks the route he was carried for burial at Winchcombe after his murder in 811CE. Finally, on 28th May, Gloucester's city archaeologist will guide us through the 1643 Siege of Gloucester. The Princess Royal, on a visit to Gloucestershire Archives in January, was shown a map by the Archivists of the parliamentary defences of the city from 1643. This turned out to be an awkward moment as the Royalists besieging the city failed to break either the spirit or defences built by the citizens; a decisive moment then and one for the Princess Royal to ponder on now. The talks arranged by the LHS are always open to visitors if there's a particular subject that appeals to you.

Outing

On Monday 24th June there will be an outing to Bletchley Park for anyone interested in learning more about the forerunner to GCHQ. Several employees of Bletchley Park, including Miss Hilda Bishop, late of Malleson Road, came to live in Gotherington when GCHQ first opened. A coach has been booked for this visit, so everyone, whether a LHS member or not, is welcome. The cost has still to be confirmed but is likely to be in the region of £30 per person. Please contact Caroline, cmbmeller@gmail.com, if you would like to reserve a place.

Caroline Meller, Secretary

GOTHERINGTON SUMMER FETE 2019

The Fete will be held on Saturday 27th July and we are inviting all local clubs and societies to get involved. The response so far has been fantastic with lots of new ideas to make this a wonderful day out for all to enjoy.

100 years ago, Gotherington War Memorial was erected using funds raised by the Village and we feel that it is a wonderful opportunity 100 years later to raise funds towards its restoration. All profits from the Fete will go towards the memorial restoration.

Please look out for Fete updates on both the Village and Parish Council Facebook pages and on posters around the Village.

At the moment, there is a small team working on this exciting event - so we would welcome any help and ideas that you may have and also invite you to get involved as little or as much as you would like.

If you would like to help in any way, please let me know by emailing me at hsamuels@btinternet.com or phoning on 672492.

Howard Samuels

GOWNS

Contact: 07752 152485

Struggling with the handset?

Want to compare your energy charges to find the best rate?

Need someone to do that little job that you can't manage yourself?

Just contact us to see how we can help you.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

www.gotherington.org.uk/neighbourhood-watch

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

Report a Crime - Contact the Police:

Reporting an emergency 999 or 112 Reporting non-emergencies 101
Action Fraud 0300 123 2040 Crime Stoppers 0800 555 111

Anti-Social Behaviour:

Anti-social behaviour covers a wide variety of incidents, some of which are criminal offences and can be dealt with by police and others that are better dealt with by the council or another agency.

Anti-social behaviour is any intimidating or threatening activity that scares you or badly affects your quality of life.

Fraud and Scams:

Fraud is when someone tricks you in order to cause harm, usually by costing you money. But even if you haven't lost money, you may still have experienced fraud.

Tips to prevent fraud

- Do not give **any** personal information (name, address, email, etc) to organisations or people before verifying they are who they say they are.
- Many frauds start with an email. Remember that financial institutions and banks do not email asking you to confirm your bank details by clicking a link. Always question whether an email could be bogus.
- Destroy and preferably shred receipts with your card details on and any post with your name and address on. Identity fraudsters don't need much information in order to be able to clone your identity.
- If you have been a victim of fraud, be aware of "fraud recovery" fraud. This is when fraudsters pretend to be a lawyer or a Police Officer and tell you they can help you recover the money you've already lost.

Howard Samuels